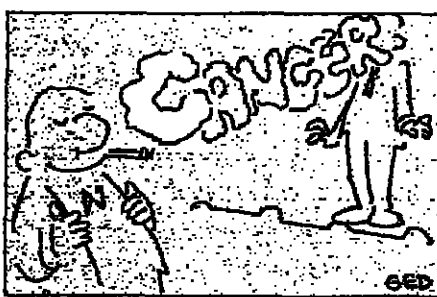




PROVENCAL PILGRIM

Peter Mayle pops back to London

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PASSIVE VOICE

Can other people's smoke really kill?

Life & Times, page 4



POETIC JUSTICE

Nobel prize for modern-day Homer

Page 3

No boost for Tory morale

Lame Lamont leaves Major uphill task

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

NORMAN Lamont yesterday failed to lift morale over the economy or to remove the question mark over his future. His speech to the Conservative conference ruled out substantial cuts in interest rates as a means of boosting growth and reviving the battered economy.

The Chancellor's low-key performance leaves John Major with the difficult task of restoring Tory confidence when he addresses the conference today at the end of a week in which his policies have been savaged by Baroness Thatcher and Lord Tebbit.

Mr Lamont made a 2 per cent inflation target and the tightest possible squeeze on public spending the cornerstones of his new economic policy to fill the void left by Britain's departure from the European exchange-rate mechanism. The Chancellor received a muted reception from a conference that ap-

peared, from the remarks of a succession of speakers, to yearn for him to announce direct action to assist ailing industries.

Instead, the Chancellor's priority was to reassure the markets that ERM withdrawal meant no weakening of the government's resolve to hold down inflation. This was warmly welcomed by leading pro-Europeans in the cabinet. Kenneth Clarke, home secretary, described Mr Lamont's speech as "very workmanlike".

Mr Lamont had been expected to wait until next Monday to announce his monetary policy but as he made his speech, he also released a letter to the Commons Treasury and Civil Service committee in which he set out his plans to establish for the first time a specified target for inflation.

The long-term aim is a rate of 2 per cent or less, while for the remainder of this parlia-

ment he has set the objective of keeping underlying inflation (excluding mortgage interest payments) within a range of 1 to 4 per cent.

Interest rates will be set to meet that objective, and Mr Lamont would use a range of indicators including house prices and the exchange rate in making his judgment, although he would not set an exchange rate target.

But the Treasury's letter made clear that no new monetary targets would be introduced, although a "monitoring range" for broad money might be announced in the Autumn Statement in mid-November.

At the heart of fiscal policy will be even deeper cuts than expected in public spending, including a severe squeeze on public sector pay. But he gave no further details and did not suggest that economies in public spending might be balanced by lower interest rates.

The unusually passionate debate had seen the Chancellor under fierce attack from party members. Ministers were accused of kicking Tory supporters in the teeth and killing small businesses.

Mr Lamont upset one section of his audience by at least leaving open the option of one day returning to the ERM although he said that Britain's conditions were "unlikely to be satisfied soon".

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said the speech was "a rebash of the old monetarist targets that failed in the 1980s".

The stock market yesterday registered only mild enthusiasm, while sterling firmed against the mark on foreign exchange markets.

The governor of the Bank of England, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, in a speech to the CBI last night, endorsed the government's policy framework, and defended the decision to pull sterling out of the ERM. The FT-SE 100 Index closed at its day's best at 2,538.81, a 21.7 point rise.

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City reaction, page 19

Please don't use the M-word... Is that MAASKEIT or MAGGIE?

Continued on page 18, col 8

In Brighton, Thatcher steals it with a kiss



Platform pals: Baroness Thatcher and John Major putting up a united front yesterday

Enter stage left: Santa Margarita

By Matthew Parris in Brighton

Even the sea was calm, the streets hushed. Pennants hung motionless in the still air. Dawn crept up silent, in windless suspense — "breathless", as Wordsworth says, "with adoration". Brighton was waiting for Baroness Thatcher.

There were police everywhere. At every corner and on every rooftop, trained marksmen, there for her protection, scanned the horizon. Some looked out to sea, in case it should part to reveal her. Some looked up into the sky, lest the lady Lieutenant Colonel of the Parachute Regiment should come that way.

When would she arrive? How? Nobody knew. Wild rumours swept the town. One story had it that she had cancelled and left the country;

another that she would helicopter in with a barnstorming speech; yet another that she was already in Brighton — had been here all week under deep cover — by day, in disguise, with Elvis Presley, battering haddock in a fish-and-chip shop — by night plotting with Lord Tebbit. Everybody had his own theory. Your sketchwriter followed the most timid and accepted that she might arrive as mortals do, in a car, at the main entrance. Along with 50 other journalists, I waited there, from breakfast.

Uniformed men with guns lined each floor of the car park opposite. "You'd think with all those marksmen someone would have got her," quipped a passing MP, not a million miles from the government, to me. A cynical bunch, Tories. New rumours spread among us. One was that she had negotiated permission to deliver a speech of four sentences. Press men speculated... "No. No. No."

We discussed a theory that Lady Thatcher was helpless, out of touch, and a prisoner of desperate men "using" her for their own political purposes; and another — that she had herself started this rumour to distance herself from measures she must take. Or were her friends just trying to shift the blame? As we argued over her true nature, the real woman sank beneath the vapours of claim and counter-claim. Lady Thatcher approaches the status of Eva Perón, Mother Teresa or Buddy Holly. A faction will never believe it when she dies. A faction believes she already has.

As we argued, we noticed a change in the type of representative arriving. Gerald Howarth, MP, her friend, stationed himself at the door. Tall

Continued on page 18, col 3

Chancellor skirts the big issues

"IF JOHN Smith is the answer, then what is the question?" Michael Heseltine demanded on Tuesday, bringing the house down at the Conservative Party conference. But as Norman Lamont descended from the podium in Brighton yesterday morning, Mr Heseltine's remark took on a new meaning. If Mr Lamont's speech was the answer, then what on earth was the question?

The question Mr Lamont chose to address was certainly not the one on the minds of British businessmen and voters. His speech contained no hint of what the government would do to end the recession and restore confidence after the devaluation. This was in sharp contrast to Mr Lamont's first public statement on post-devaluation policy, at the IMF meeting in Washington. Then he described a new objective of economic policy — to achieve "sustained non-inflationary growth". But in yesterday's speech he had reverted completely to the traditional Treasury language. The only objective he mentioned was "the lasting defeat of inflation". His speech mentioned inflation 17 times, recession twice, confidence twice and prosperity once, growth not at all.

Mr Lamont showed no sign of willingness to reinstate the economic mechanism that can link low inflation to economic growth. There was no mention of the sharp cuts in interest rates demanded by the Thatcherites and the business community — and now pos-

The Chancellor's statement of policy will not end the recession, rally his party or even protect sterling, says Anatole Kaletsky

sible outside the ERM. Although a further half-point reduction may still be on the cards in the near future, the voices arguing in the cabinet for a much bolder strategy to end the recession have clearly been over-ruled.

If the Chancellor thought that by disappointing the public and the Conservative Party he would impress his other audience — the City and world financial markets — he probably failed in this respect, too.

Although the pound and the stockmarket fell only slightly in response to Mr Lamont's comments, that was probably not the end of the financial markets' reaction. As one of the world's top investment managers remarked, Mr Lamont confirmed that the British economy would remain stuck in a state of limbo between outright recession and proper recovery for the foreseeable future.

In fact, the Chancellor's caution may inadvertently have offered reassurance to investors who wished to continue selling sterling. Every investor knows that the government will continue to cut interest rates gradually until the economy starts to recover. But as in America, where borrowing costs have been

Continued on page 18, col 8

Dismay as house prices have biggest monthly dip

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

HOUSE prices fell by at least 2.8 per cent in September, the biggest-ever monthly fall and equivalent to a one-third cut over a year.

The precise figure will be issued today in the respected Halifax price index. It is

understood to be at least double the 1.4 per cent fall recorded earlier this month by the Nationwide index, based on a smaller sample.

The news will be a further blow to the housing market, and will plunge many more people into negative equity, in which their home is worth less than their mortgage. Already, more than a million owners have negative equity.

The news was received with anguish by estate agents, who had looked in vain to Norman Lamont's Conservative conference speech yesterday to provide some help for the market, which, for the first time since the second world war, has suffered a reduction in sales for four consecutive years.

A sharp drop in house sales

was recorded by estate agents last month. The biggest agents, including Hambro Countrywide, TSB Property Services and Halifax Estate agents, report sales were down by about 40 per cent compared to last September. Harry Hill, managing director of Hambro Countrywide, one of the top ten estate agents, said: "The figures are deeply disappointing. The housing market effectively stopped, and September is traditionally our best month for sales."

Lenders say that a rise in sales is needed before any increase in prices. In previous housing slumps, there have never been more than two successive years of reduced sales. Peter Kelsey, managing director of

Continued on page 18, col 6

There's a warm welcome in

COUNTRY LIVING

BREAK FOR THE BORDER
Whistle stops through the Highlands
Digress and digress in the Lowlands
Orkney and Shetland
Islands St Andrews

CRAFTS WITH CLOUT
Beds, Caskets at 99
Bag rug, rug, rug

YORKSHIRE'S BEST-DRESSED WOMEN
WINTER WARMERS
Crackling good stories
Wrap up in our series of winter games
Tea, calm, calm (and other recipes)

MICHAEL PALIN • PHILIPPA DAVENPORT • BRIAN BLESSED

Step inside and sample Philippa Davenport's hearty onion recipes • Toast your toes by a crackling good stove • Stroll through St. Andrews and whistletop across the Highlands • Meet Michael Palin, Brian Blessed and Yorkshire's best-dressed women

PLUS Rag rugs and a barn conversion that will please the conservationists

NOVEMBER ISSUE ON SALE NOW
WHEN YOUR HEART IS IN THE COUNTRY

Tallest stories find a home from home in the record breaker

By John Young

ANYONE short of ideas for children's Christmas presents might try to get hold of a copy of last January's issue of *Hong Kong Toys*. Running to 1,356 pages, it is said to be the largest periodical ever published.

For this information we are indebted to that invaluable and entertaining compendium of natural phenomena and human achievements, *The Guinness Book of Records*, which makes its annual appearance today. The 1993 edition, the 39th, contains some 15,000 items, of which about a fifth are updated or

included for the first time. Among the latter are a number of feats that, one suspects, owe their status to never having been attempted before. For example, while one is happy to applaud Ashrita Furman for walking 98.2km with a milk bottle balanced on his head, one is also inclined to wonder why.

Of course, the book records the serious as well as the silly. Among the more notable achievements was the raising last February of the wreckage of a crashed helicopter from the bed of the Pacific at a depth of 17,251ft. It may also

be useful to know that Britain's oldest authenticated centenarian is Charlotte Hughes, of Redcar, Cleveland, who was born on August 1, 1877; or even that the novelist Barbara Taylor Bradford was last May paid an advance of £17 million.

What, however, of Philip Arthington, of Portrush, Co. Antrim, who tossed a pancake 283 times in two minutes? Among the more spectacular feats was that of Ralf Lane, who managed to hold 310 playing cards in a fan in one hand, with the value and colour of each being visible.

Gorbachev evicted

Mikhail Gorbachev stood defiantly on the steps of his offices as he was evicted by police acting on the orders of President Yeltsin and declared: "Yesterday I said that the president is incapable of doing his job. As you can see, he has shown what he is capable of."

Page 11

Girl killed

A girl aged seven was found clubbed to death in a derelict recording studio in Sunderland after disappearing from outside her home. Police believe the killing may be

linked to a series of attempted child abductions in the area. Page 3

Ford cuts

Ford has cut prices for the third time this year as car sales continue to slump. Some prices are being cut by up to £2,000. Page 6

Pits to close

The normally moderate Democratic Union of Mineworkers has called for a general strike to save the mining industry as British Coal prepared to announce that more than half of Britain's remaining pits are to close. Page 23

Burning out, page 23

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UDM demands general strike over closure of 20 more pits

By Patricia Tehan

A LEADER of the usually moderate Union of Democratic Mineworkers called yesterday for a general strike to save the mining industry, as sources confirmed that British Coal has picked next Wednesday to announce the closure of more than half the country's pits.

Neil Greaterrex, Nottinghamshire president of the union, said that it would be ludicrous for miners to strike on their own because there were 12 months of coal stocks at power stations and six months at pitheads. "What we need is a general strike," he said. "It is not just miners' jobs at stake here. A concerted effort is needed from every worker in the country."

The National Union of Mineworkers, the country's biggest mining union, which meets next Thursday to discuss strike action, called last night for the resignation of Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade. Mr Heseltine later admitted that "difficult and uncomfortable" decisions will have to be made. British Coal, which is being slimmed down ahead of its privatisation, planned for 1994, is expected to announce that 20 pits are to close and a further 10 closures could follow. It is also expected to announce that more than 25,000 miners will lose their jobs after an agreement

reached with the Treasury for a new redundancy package.

The NUM criticised Mr Heseltine for alleged comments that decisions were being forced on the government because of the coal industry's lack of performance. Frank Cave, its vice-president, said that Mr Heseltine's comments on productivity were "quite simply untrue". He said: "Either he is seeking deliberately to mislead the public or he is appallingly ignorant about the coal industry. In either case, those remarks on a question of such great importance raise serious doubts about his stewardship of the coal industry and he should resign."

Mr Cave said that British Coal had announced record £170 million profits after a huge increase in productivity. The NUM claimed that the cost of the pit closure plans would be £2.1 billion.

According to a letter leaked to NUM president Arthur Scargill last month, a total of 25,000 mining jobs would be lost through the pit closures. The union estimates a further 50,000 jobs in related industries will go.

Unemployment benefit and lost taxation would cost £600 million a year. "The social consequences of the planned closures in our coalfields will be catastrophic — and the British people will pay for it,"



Bitter cup: retired Grimethorpe miners Fred Barrowclough, left, and Jack Derbyshire wait for news

Mr Cave said. "When our delegates meet next week to consider what action should be taken to halt this senseless destruction, they will have the jobs of our members in the forefront of their minds."

British Coal is expected to say next week that the Treasury has agreed to reinstate redundancy terms in force between March 1990 and March this year. Under these terms, miners over the age of 30 were paid lump sums of between £2,500 and £10,000 on top of their other redun-

dancy terms. Since March the scheme in operation pays up to £27,000 depending on age and length of service.

British Coal refused to comment on the announcement or on the redundancy package. "We have no statement about our intentions and when we have something to say we will say it. In the meantime all these reports are speculation."

Robin Cook, shadow trade spokesman, said yesterday that the pit closures would lead to rising unemployment and a deeper recession. He called for any announcement to be delayed until the House of Commons was sitting.

"We would roundly condemn any announcement timed for next week, only one week before Parliament returns, as a cynical attempt to get the decision out at a time when Parliament cannot call ministers to account," he said.

The closures would damage Britain's chances for recovery and burden local communities with high levels of unemployment, he said. The cost of redundancies would be higher than paying out mining subsidies. "I will be calling on Michael Heseltine to halt the closures and to delay any announcement until Parliament resumes."

Community prepares for a bleak future

By Paul Wilkinson

LIKE men rearranging deck chairs as the *Titanic* went down, council staff were hard at work yesterday laying a smart red-brick pavement opposite the turn into Grimethorpe colliery.

The fact that next week the pit's closure was likely to be announced seems to have no bearing on their labours, but it will need more than bright new footpaths to lift the gloom that has already descended on this South Yorkshire mining village. There is ironic amusement locally that the money to pay for the work on the village's dowdy main street comes from EC grants made after the last closures.

Already two of the dozen or so small shops are boarded up and traders expect the local economy to collapse once the pit shuts. Margaret Bedford, whose family hardware shop has served the village for a quarter of a century, said: "It's the community I feel sorry for. It got an undeserved bad reputation after the 1984 miners' strike, but they are basically good people."

The young will be worst off, they get such a poor view of themselves, there's nothing left to work for. The economics of it all are just a nonsense. We produce some of the cheapest deep-mine coal in the world and then we let in cheap imports."

Grimethorpe is one of the bigger pits in the South Yorkshire coalfield, extracting almost one million tons a year from beneath the shallow valley north of Barnsley which

it dominates. Nearly 800 men work there, a fraction of the number once employed between the wars at the peak of its hundred-year existence. Its winding towers and enclosed conveyor belts bulk large on the skyline, but the biggest landmark is the single cooling tower of the power station which, until this year, used much of the pit's output. That closed this summer, leaving Grimethorpe struggling to find new markets.

A Colliery factory and industrial fuel plant next door, which process supplies from Grimethorpe and nearby Houghton Main, must surely face the same fate.

The axe has been poised over Grimethorpe since March, when British Coal first put the pit's production under review. As a result resignation has, by now, all but replaced anger and militancy. Ken Hancock, the pit's NUM branch secretary, refuses. Canute-like, to discuss what he describes as just another rumour. But at the miners' welfare club they are not so reluctant.

There, men already on the dole while away their time with a hand of cards and a slowly swallowed pint. "I came out with a good deal and tried setting up in my own business but the recession screwed me," Tony Kilburn, a collier who took redundancy six years ago, said. "These men will be coming out with worse terms than I got and there's nothing for them now."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prisoner in murder case escapes police

A prisoner escaped from a police van yesterday as he was about to be delivered to court for a hearing on charges linked to murder (Stewart Tindler writes). Scotland Yard detectives hunting him last night said he was "violent and extremely dangerous".

Tyrone Evans, aged 28, below right, was whisked away from Sutton Magistrates' Court in south London by two men in a waiting Renault 5 Turbo car. The Yard warned the public not to approach him but report any sightings to police. Earlier this week, a prisoner armed with a knife and ammonia tried to escape from another court in the area and was stopped by police. Nine police and prison officers were injured in that incident but no one was injured yesterday.

Evans was arriving at court for a remand hearing after being charged last month with dismembering and disposing of the body of Stephen Davison, with intent to impede the prosecution of two men facing murder charges. Mr Davison, from Swindon, Wiltshire, disappeared last May. According to police, Evans made his escape bid as the police van carrying him drove into the yard at the court after bringing him from High Down prison in Surrey. He was escorted by one policeman and was not handcuffed. Evans attacked his guard, leapt from the van and squeezed through the gap between the van and the court wall before running to the waiting high-performance car.



Docked pay contested

Probation officers are to seek a High Court injunction in an effort to stop the Home Office and employers from docking the pay of staff taking industrial action over their wage claim. The threatened cuts of 15 per cent amount to about £50 a week for the average probation officer. The National Association of Probation Officers decided to take industrial action after employers rejected their 7 per cent pay claim. They offered 4.1 per cent to staff who co-operate with new duties under the Criminal Justice Act. Helen Schofield, chairwoman of the association, told its conference in Eastbourne: "The employers' response to the industrial action is intimidatory and insulting."

Air insurance to rise

Airlines around the world face big increases in insurance premiums after the recent spate of air accidents. The EI crash in Amsterdam is estimated to have incurred liabilities of about £215 million, of which London companies have about 40 per cent. About a third of that is borne by Lloyd's. Any increases are unlikely to come into effect until next year and are not expected to be big enough to warrant fare rises. Meanwhile, investigators in Amsterdam have stepped up the hunt for the crashed plane's cockpit voice recorder, which could prove more valuable than the badly damaged flight data recorder now being examined at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, Hampshire.

Margarine under attack

People concerned with healthy eating may be doing themselves no favours by substituting margarine for butter. Research in America, confirmed by the US agriculture department, has found that oils used in margarine can raise cholesterol levels in exactly the same way as the saturated fats found in butter or meat. The villains are substances called trans-fatty acids, produced when vegetable oils are converted into spreadable products by adding hydrogen atoms. Professor Michael Oliver, director of the Wynn Institute for Metabolic Research in London, said: "What we need now is more research into how much of these materials there is in food."

News Corp joins Canal

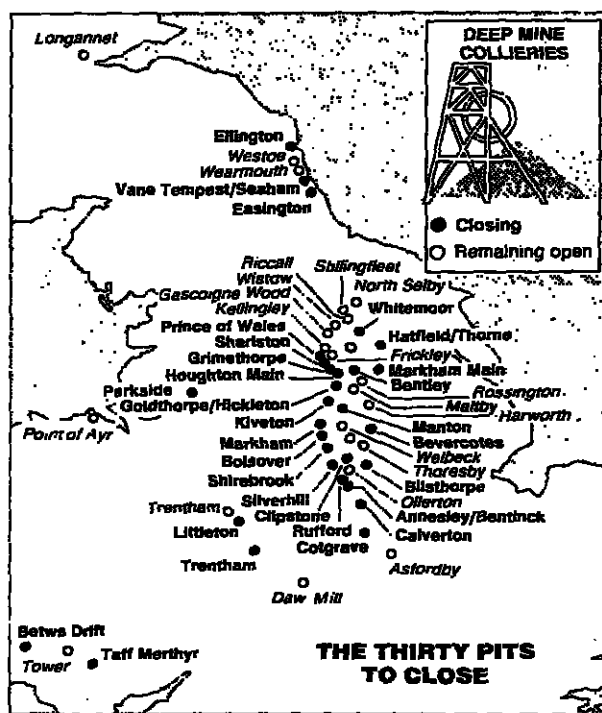
Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation has joined Canal Plus, Europe's largest pay television company, to develop new satellite television services for European viewers. The 50-50 partnership will explore all future broadcasting technologies such as digital compression, which promises to bring viewers hundreds of channels. A working group, led by Gus Fischer, News Corporation's chief operating officer, and Mark Tessler, managing director of Canal Plus's overseas operations, is to negotiate agreements on programming, technology and strategy. Both firms said yesterday that they will begin operations with a partner in each European country as soon as the new technologies are available.

Appeal backs mother

The mother of a motor cyclist killed when he was hit by a van driven through red traffic lights has won the right to challenge a coroner's decision not to call a jury at the inquest into his death. Yesterday's ruling by the Court of Appeal marked the latest round in a battle by Brigitte Chaudhry, of Willesden, northwest London, over the death of her son Mansoor, 26, in south London, in October 1990. She argues that such deaths are preventable and that relatives of victims are outraged by the law's attitude.

BR figures it out

British Rail is about to introduce evening classes on how to read and understand timetables. Among the first to attend will be Lisa Clark, a BR spokeswoman, who admitted yesterday that she found the whole business a bit of a struggle. "Lots of people are like me, in that they see columns of numbers and can't figure out exactly what they see," she said. "So by setting up the course we can help people by showing them how to read a timetable properly, so they don't miss their train."



Brown asks Major for credible policy

GORDON Brown, the shadow chancellor, yesterday challenged John Major to use his conference speech today to announce an emergency programme for national recovery after Norman Lamont's failure to offer a credible economic policy.

As the shadow economic team reopened its broadside on the government's handling of the economy, Mr Brown said Mr Lamont's speech in Brighton contained nothing to stop unemployment from rising or businesses from becoming bankrupt.

"There was nothing new for the economy other than a rehash of the old monetarist targets that failed in the 1980s, together with a further round of public spending cuts that will destroy jobs," Mr

A vengeful Labour party has fallen upon the Chancellor's speech, writes Jill Sherman

Brown said. The only new target was Mr Lamont's abandonment of zero inflation and he had failed to clarify a policy on exchange rates, Mr Brown said at a Westminster news conference.

Mr Brown was joined by Harriet Harman, shadow treasury secretary, Robin Cook, shadow trade and industry spokesman, and Frank Dobson, shadow employment spokesman, who all rounded

on the government's dismal record.

Mr Lamont's remarks were designed to save his own job rather than those of others, Mr Brown said. Pupils, parents, patients and consumers of public services would pay instead for his mistakes on Black Wednesday.

Mr Brown called on the prime minister to implement an industry policy based on investing in machinery, education and training; to stimulate the housing market and to remove the fear of rising unemployment through an emergency jobs programme.

He challenged Mr Major over his remarks that all public spending promises in the Conservative manifesto would be honoured and his pledges that tax cuts would be made year

on year.

"The truth is that Britain is now the victim of a government which has lost any direction, purpose or strategy and is more interested in appeasing factions in the Tory party than pursuing the national interest."

Ms Harman said the Tories had promised "the earth" in their manifesto in the run-up to the general election. They promised more money for the NHS, tax cuts, reduced taxes on business and more nursery places, to maintain mortgage tax relief and to invest £6 billion in new roads. "Norman Lamont should admit that the Tory manifesto has already been abandoned."

Lamont's target, page 1
Conference, pages 7-9

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Trinidad's quiet man wins the Nobel Prize

THE 1992 Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to Derek Walcott of Trinidad yesterday.

In awarding the \$1.2 million (£710,000) prize, the Swedish Academy said Walcott "has both African and European blood in his veins". In him, the academy declared, "West Indian culture has found its great poet".

The first West Indian to receive the literature prize, Walcott, 62, was preferred over such distinguished writers as Günter Grass and Marguerite Duras. After Graham Greene's death last year, no British writers were seriously considered for the prize.

The playwright Timberlake Wertenbaker last night described the award as "wonderful". "Derek Walcott has done for the West Indies what James Joyce did for Dublin," she added.

Walcott himself reacted modestly to the announcement, remarking that he had "hoped and expected that either V.S. Naipaul or Seamus Heaney would get the prize". Heaney, like Walcott, teaches in the English department at Boston University.

Many were surprised that Walcott's fellow-Trinidadian Naipaul (a far more widely known writer) had been passed over. It may have helped Walcott's chances that there happened to be a production of one of his plays, *The Last Carnival*, at the main Stockholm theatre.

However, the award was

Daniel Johnson profiles the West Indian poet who adds another trophy to his collection

not entirely unexpected. When Walcott won the W.H. Smith Literary Award last year for his poem in rhyming hexameters, *Omeros* — which relocates the Homeric epics in Walcott's birthplace of St Lucia — the judges took bets about how long it would take for the poet and dramatist to win the Nobel Prize.

Yesterday Walcott fulfilled their hopes and those of countless other West Indians. Walcott can boast nearly three dozen plays and a dozen volumes of poetry. Despite his successes, including the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1988, he has never been regarded in Britain as a mainstream playwright or poet.

The most recent production of a Walcott play in this country was *The Odyssey* (still in repertoire at The Other Place, Stratford). Benedict Nightingale, theatre critic of *The Times*, thought "the evening needed more magic, less reductive modernity." He added: "Must updating Homer really mean making him politically correct?"

Derek Walcott has always been conscious that he could not be true to his poetic

mission while at the same time satisfying the demands of radical West Indians. *I have no nation now but the imagination*, he wrote in 1977. *Omeros* makes considerable use of dialect. Homer appears as a blues singer.

But Walcott has nevertheless been snubbed by radical West Indian critics for his strict adherence to the Queen's English in most of his works. He once wrote: "Someone on the outskirts of the Empire can sometimes be more stirred by the immediacy of the English language than a schoolboy in England."

Only a few of Walcott's plays have been seen in Britain, mainly due to the shortage of experienced black actors. They include *Dream on Monkey Mountain* (performed at the Royal Court) and *The Joker of Seville*, commissioned, like *The Odyssey*, for the RSC, besides *Viva Detroit*, which was performed at the Tricycle Theatre earlier this year.

Walcott owes much of his success in Britain to the director Yvonne Brewster, who worked with Walcott in the Trinidad Theatre Workshop, which he founded in 1959. Most of his dramatic works share a common concern with the West Indian colonial past and with classical mythology, with such modern themes as Rastafarianism (*O Babylon*) and the steel band (the recent musical *Steel*).

But Walcott has always



Another bouquet: Derek Walcott speaks to his literary agent from his home in Massachusetts yesterday after hearing the news of his award

seen poetry, rather than the theatre, as his true calling. In *Omeros* (1990, published by Faber in paperback at £9.99), he used complex verse forms and French patois to resurrect the spirit of the Greek epic, but blithely admitted his ignorance of the original: "I have not read all of Homer. Perhaps if I knew his writing well

I would not have dared to adapt it. The idea would have seemed pompous."

I sing of quiet Achilles. Afolabe's son, who never ascended in an elevator, who had no passport, since the horizon needs none... Walcott's *Collected Poems 1948-1984* constitutes a body

of work that caused his Boston colleague, the Nobel laureate Joseph Brodsky, to praise him as "the best poet the English language has today". His subject matter ranges over the history of literature and landscapes from the Caribbean to Wales.

Walcott has a great gift for

memorable, musical lines. For example: *There is no sea as restless as my mind. But he also concentrates great passion into a few sharp phrases: I who have cursed! The drunken officer of British rule, how choose! Between this Africa and the English tongue I love?*

After years of wandering

around the world, Walcott has returned to St Lucia, in the Windward Isles, where he writes when he is not teaching at Boston. There he has long been a national hero, to whose reputation even the wealth and prestige conferred by the Nobel Prize can scarcely add much lustre.

Leading article, page 15

Police warn parents after girl is battered to death

BY LIN JENKINS

POLICE investigating the murder of a girl aged 7, who disappeared from outside her home on Wednesday, believe that her death may be linked to a series of attempted child abductions in the area over the past few weeks.

The battered body of Nikki Allen was found in a corner of a derelict recording studio on a busy high street by a neighbour yesterday just as the missing child's grandparents were about to broadcast an appeal for help in tracing her. She had been clubbed to death.

Det Supt George Sindair said: "Nikki was badly beaten with a blunt instrument. At this stage it is impossible to say until after the post-mortem examination whether she was the victim of a sexual act." Police warned parents in the area to be on their guard and not to let their children wander off alone.

Nikki disappeared at 9.50pm on Wednesday from outside the ground-floor flat in Wear Garth, Sunderland. The child's grandparents, Tyne and Wear, where she lived with her mother and sisters Stacy, 8, Zara, 4, and Naomi, 2.

Her family told police that she had been with her mother in her grandparents' flat on the second floor when she was told to run home. Her mother looked over the balcony and saw her daughter three doors away from their home. When she followed a minute later, Nikki had vanished.

The family searched for two hours, thinking that she may have wandered off, and then



Nikki disappeared from within yards of her home

called the police. More than 30 officers, some using dogs, and the Northumbria police force helicopter searched throughout the night.

Early yesterday morning they found her shoes and purple jacket by the side of the Wear. Shortly afterwards, a neighbour helping in the search found her body in an empty and vandalised building, last used as a recording studio, in High Street West. The child's grandparents, Jenny and Richard Prest, had been about to broadcast a description of Nikki in the hope that someone had seen her. It was they who identified the body as her parents, who are separated, were too distraught.

Over the past few weeks, several attempts at snatching children in the Sunderland and Durham area have been reported to the police. Two girls aged seven and nine were abducted by a man in South Hyton, Sunderland, eight

weeks ago and were driven around before being released. Last week a boy was offered offered sweets and a ride in a car by a man who approached him in Doxford Park, Sunderland. The boy ran off.

Neighbours described Nikki as a happy and helpful girl. Mary Soames, 77, a neighbour of her grandparents, said: "How could anyone do this to such a sweet little girl? Whoever did it needs to be caught and strung up."

"She was a lovely little girl, she was always happy and smiling. Everybody knew her. She often came to see me to go on errands for me. I will really miss her. She was a treasure. Her grandparents thought the world of her. They must be heartbroken."

Feelings were running high on the estate yesterday, with parents threatening to take the law into their own hands. One father, who declined to give his name, said: "If the police don't catch this child killer, we will."

Bill Cairns, acting headmaster at St John's and St Patrick's RC primary school, where Nikki was a pupil, said that many of the children were in tears. "The children are very distressed. They have seen and heard the news reports and word quickly spread."

"Everyone on the estate is frightened and shocked. We stress to the children that they should not go off with strangers and I don't think Nikki would be the sort of child to do that. She would not have gone willingly."

Inquest jury seeks study of hospital

AN INQUEST jury yesterday demanded enquiries into the running of a hospital where a patient died on a drug rehabilitation programme.

The jury returned an open verdict on David Lang, 35, who died at the Lister Hospital, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, where there have been 11 deaths and suicide attempts since April. A jury statement said: "We want a police investigation into the availability of drugs. We want the level of staffing to be examined. We want all staff on duty in the psychiatric wing to be identified in future and security of the wing to be looked into." More frequent testing of patients on the detoxification programme was also requested.

On Wednesday, the same jury at Hitchin coroner's court recommended an enquiry into staffing levels at the Lister when returning a suicide verdict on a patient who fell to his death from the seventh floor. Mr Lang's sister, Lorraine Rowe, alleged that he was supplied, in hospital, with methadone, a heroin substitute.

St Paul's sky-diver escapes prosecution

BY KATE ALDERSON

A parachutist who jumped 102 feet from the Whispering Gallery in St Paul's Cathedral in front of tourists and a preacher yesterday escaped prosecution under a nineteenth century church law because of a legal technicality.

City of London magistrates withdrew the charge under the Ecclesiastical Courts Jurisdiction Act of 1860 because Russell Powell should have been charged within six months of the jump on October 18, 1990.

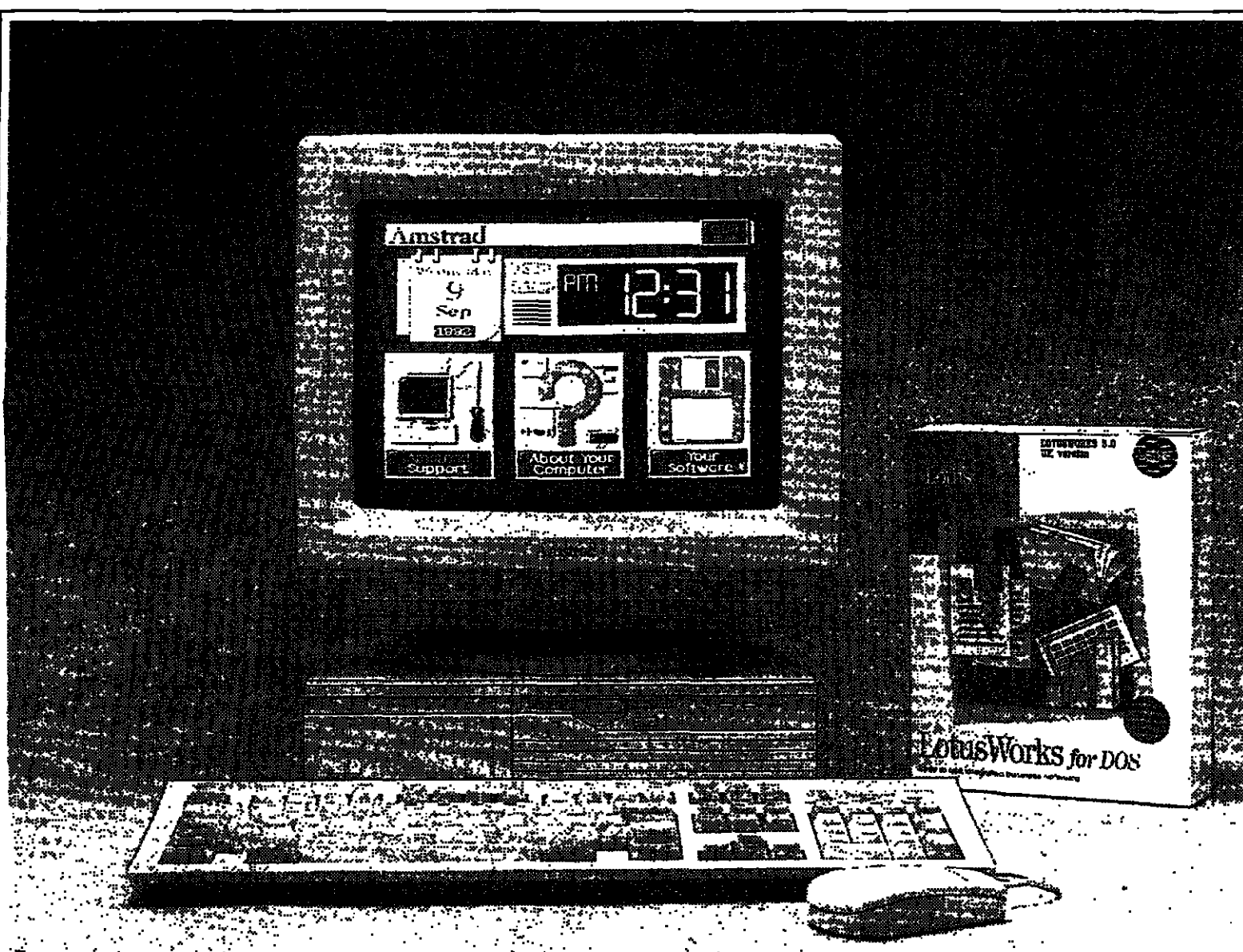
Mr Powell, 24, a former Royal Marine, who claims to have made 180 such jumps since 1988, still faces a charge of climbing on or being upon the girders and parapets of Tower Bridge following an alleged jump from the bridge in June. The case was adjourned until November 24. "The charge was ridiculous," Mr Powell said outside court yesterday. "St Paul's is open to the public. I've never hurt anyone and I've never done anything criminal. Base jumping — from buildings, antenna, spans and earth-

bound objects — is about leaving footprints and taking photographs. I will make more jumps in the future."

Mr Powell watched his friend Darren Newton, a fellow Base-jumper, leap to his death from the top of the 28-storey Hilton Hotel in Park Lane earlier this year and said that Mr Newton's father would "never get over his son's death".

Accompanied by Jane Waterson, his girl friend, Mr Powell claimed afterwards that the St Paul's jump was a world first for low-level parachuting. "I do a jump just about every week. I've got my eye on the NatWest Tower, but I haven't found a way up to the top yet."

"I must stress that I would not recommend anyone to do this. There's a huge amount of training and preparation. Some jumps take three months of planning. Jumping is an adrenalin kick. What you have got is intense terror being transferred into intense elation in a moment." He said he did not have a death wish.



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Solicitors ignore voluntary code

Law Society confronts racism and sexism

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

STRINGENT measures to stamp out racism and sexism in the solicitors' profession are being proposed by the Law Society after the failure of law firms to act voluntarily to eradicate discrimination.

The society put forward a package of reforms yesterday, including recommended recruitment targets for trainees from the ethnic minorities, after acknowledging that its 1988 code of practice on equality had not worked. There was substantial evidence of discrimination.

The proposals on which the profession will be consulted, include a new rule that outlaws discrimination and requires solicitors to operate an equality policy; and a revamped code of conduct tackling the most common areas of discrimination in a solicitors' practice.

Firms are recommended by the society to adopt targets for the employment of solicitors from the ethnic minorities, with different targets depend-

ing on size of firm: big firms would be encouraged to reach a target of 10 per cent of trainees from the ethnic minorities by 1995. Henry Hodge, Law Society council member, said: "We have identified that the problems we hoped would be addressed are still continuing."

Some 14 per cent of students going through law schools were from the ethnic minorities and the proportion was rising, he said. "There is a great deal of evidence, some statistical, far more anecdotal, that they have far greater difficulty getting training contracts."

On average, he said, a would-be solicitor from the ethnic minorities had to make double the applications that any other student would make. The proposed policy also covers women, particularly their treatment if they have children, and solicitors with disabilities. The society is proposing to tighten its previous guidelines on equality issued

in 1988. That code of practice would be upgraded to a practice rule, requiring firms to operate a policy against discrimination, even sole practitioners or those working part time from home.

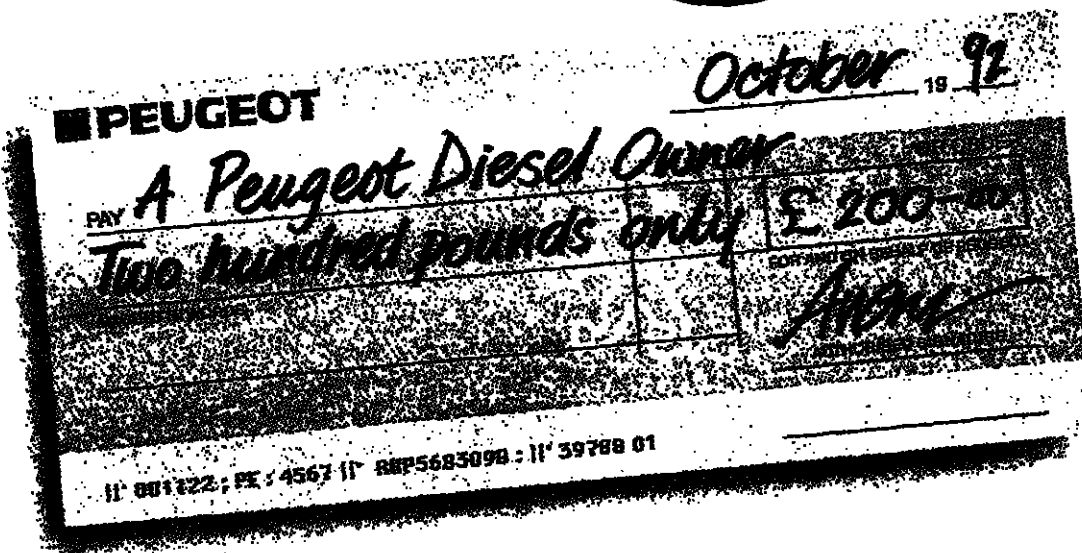
A breach of the rule would incur disciplinary sanctions. The society says it has a duty to act in the public interest in regulating its members, and action against discrimination falls into that category. The existence of a rule would also make it easier for victims of discrimination to seek redress.

Mr Hodge emphasised that the recommended targets were not quotas, which would be unlawful. The society is recommending that small firms of between five and ten fee earners should have at least one fee earner from the ethnic minorities and that big firms should have at least 10 per cent of their trainees and 5 per cent of their fee earners from ethnic minorities. The trainee target should be met within three years.



Award winner Rosemary Thompson, right, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, is congratulated by her daughter Sara after winning *Woman's Weekly* magazine's "Carer of the Year" competition. Mrs Thompson, who works full-time and cares for her husband who has multiple sclerosis, was nominated for her work with the Multiple Sclerosis Society. She wins £5,000 for the charity and £1,000 for herself.

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'Benign' HIV gives Aids hope

By ALISON ROBERTS

DOCTORS have identified a new, non-virulent strain of HIV that they hope will be vital in the development of a vaccine.

Five people who received blood transfusions from the same HIV-positive man, and who remain symptom-free up to ten years later, appear to have a type of HIV that does not cause Aids-related illnesses. Aids usually develops within seven to ten years after infection with HIV. Australian doctors report that the HIV-positive homosexual, who may have been infected as early as 1978, has remained well. The man gave infected blood between 1982 and 1984. The five recipients, who did not know that they were HIV-positive until up to six and a half years after their transfusions, show no clinical signs of infection.

The report, published in today's edition of *The Lancet*, says that the evidence of the HIV strain "will be vital for the development of effective vaccine strategies". The doctors, from New South Wales, call on others to find similar groups of symptomless people. There would then be hope of finding out more about the disease process.

It is already believed that the strain of HIV that exists in Africa is different to that in Europe. Doctors think that Europe is host to a less virulent and less easily transmittable strain, explaining why the predicted European epidemic has so far failed to materialise. □ Relatives of women with breast cancer are more likely to develop prostate, ovarian and uterine cancer, according to an Icelandic study, published in this week's *British Medical Journal*, showing that increased susceptibility to some forms of the disease is genetically inherited.

Vets face criticism on cruelty

By MICHAEL HORNSEY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

VETS were accused of holding double standards yesterday by allowing farm animals to suffer cruelties that would not be accepted if inflicted on family pets.

Joyce D'Silva, director of Compassion in World Farming, asked: "Where are the vets speaking out at the monstrosity of the modern broiler chicken, a creature so mutilated by genetic selection and stimulated by growth-promoting antibiotics that only 20 per cent reach slaughter weight at six weeks old without developing leg problems?"

Ms D'Silva was speaking at the annual congress of the British Veterinary Association in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, which this year was devoted to the theme of animal welfare. She drew protests from some of her audience when she accused some vets of being "closet welfarists" who were keener to "earn a pretty living" by pleasing their human clients than to protect animals.

No vet, she was sure, would knowingly allow a client to keep a pet labrador chained to the ground by a girthing strap or metal neck collar. Yet for years vets had condoned such methods of keeping pregnant sows and condoned the imprisonment of battery hens in cages so small they couldn't flap their wings.

Francis Anthony, the incoming association president, said animal welfare pressure groups had become "increasingly emotional and unbalanced". The veterinary oath required practitioners to address welfare problems only in the animals referred to them. "We do not have the right to march on to our clients' farm and inspect all the animals unless asked to," he said.

How students become first among equals

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Charles Ryder arrived at Oxford in *Brideshead Revisited* he was told: "You want either a first or a fourth. There is no value in anything else." But how to go about getting the coveted first?

In a new booklet published by Lancaster University, 13 graduates with first-class degrees have revealed the secret of their success and the examination techniques that won them academic laurels.

"There are only three ways to get a first," argues one qualified cynic. "You buy it, you steal it or they give it to you by mistake." But hard work, conscientious lecture-going and deft time management are cited more often than effortless superiority in this guide to cerebral success.

A graduate in human communication writes: "Before I started my course, an established mature student advised me to do a 40-hour week. This I seldom quite achieved but the self-imposed pressure kept me feeling that I ought to be working!"

Another says he consistently worked a five-hour day to secure a first, some way off the 14 hours which Enoch

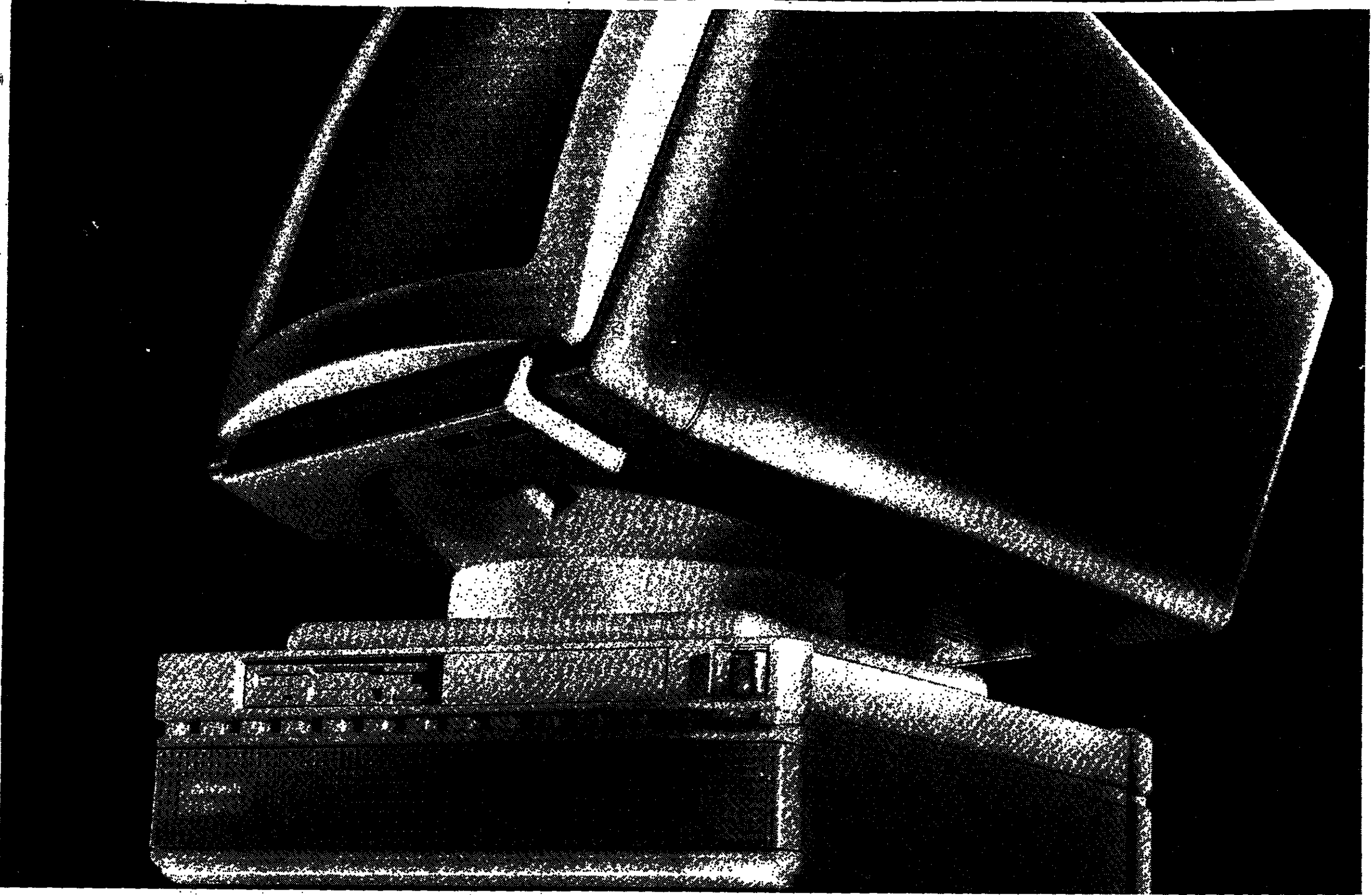
Powell slaved every day at Cambridge.

At least five weeks of intensive revision before finals seems the norm among the cream of examinees, as well as a willingness to engage in mind-numbing regurgitation. One mathematics graduate would, for practice, "re-write the entire course from memory and then check the detail with the original" until he could picture each page.

Arts candidates tend to stress originality. "This does not mean that only work of dazzling genius will get a first," says one literary star, "simply that candidates must be able to express their own interpretation in their own terms." But strategic choices can be as important as native wit. Go for easy coursework marks, says one graduate, and ignore what your peers do.

Not all of the graduates quoted were high-flyers at school but most had a point to prove, in one case to "strike a blow for the women's cause". Only one seems to have regrets. "A first is a distinct social embarrassment if it decides to come to a party with you," he laments.

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TSD 92

Ford cuts prices again after losses mount

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FORD was forced yesterday to announce its third round of price cuts this year in an effort to rescue sales worth millions of pounds from slipping away because of the recession.

Executives ordered the company's 1,000 dealers to slash sticker prices by as much as £2,000 in anticipation of the most difficult three months since the recession first hit manufacturers three years ago. Ford has lost sales of more than 27,000 cars, worth an estimated £244 million, in the first nine months of the year, forcing thousands of redundancies and short-time working at its two biggest plants in the UK at Halewood, Merseyside, and Dagenham, east London.

Although sales of new cars were down by 4 per cent in September, Ford's share of the British market fell from 29.36 per cent in the same month last year to 21.63 per cent. But the company fears that the worst is not yet over and that industry sales into the new year could fall even further as uncertainty over the economy deepens. That fear drove executives to announce the biggest

price cuts so far with some models now cheaper than they were more than a year ago.

The cuts, which will last until December, mean that a Fiesta 1.1 LX five-door model is retailing at £7,959—£1,700 below its peak price and £1,250 lower than this time last year. An Escort LX, which cost £11,740 in August, is now in showrooms at £10,624.

The price of the high-performance Escort RS2000 has dropped from £16,150 to just £14,000. The reductions, Ford stressed, are on selected models with present specifications. Updated styling will be introduced before Christmas.

The cuts were widely seen in the industry as a response to the refusal of the economy to revive. Ford said yesterday: "We have found in the past that price cuts work. These reductions are a response to the market and we are looking to try to encourage customers back into showrooms at a time when things are looking very flat for the industry."

Last week, Vauxhall announced it was cutting prices by up to £1,118 on Cavalier, Calibra and Senator models

by reducing the profit margin allowed for dealers from 17 per cent to 10 per cent.

The decision by the big car makers to continue to cut prices reinforced the decision of Nissan not to launch its new British-built Micra model into the UK market. The Japanese launched the Micra, made at Washington, Tyne and Wear, at the Paris Motor Show this week and the car, with 80 per cent of production going for export, is now on sale in France. But British buyers will have to wait until next year to see the car because Nissan says it does not want to join the discounting war.

Nissan said: "There is so much happening out there at the moment with discounting and deals that we do not feel we can place the Micra into the market without adding to the confusion."

Since the Washington factory produced its first model, a Bluebird on July 8, 1986, Nissan has increased investment in Britain to £900 million so that the plant could build both the Primera mid-range car, the successor to the Bluebird, and the new Micra.

Cartoonist heads for the stars

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A DOG with magical powers, created by the British animator James Driscoll, is set to go into space as part of a goodwill mission celebrating Columbus's discovery of America.

A softy, replica of Digswell, a floppy-eared cartoon canine with the ability to dig holes in the ground and come up in faraway lands, will be launched by the Russians on November 20 as part of the cargo of an unmanned space mission intended to cement links between space enthusiasts in Russia and America. The plan is to splash down five days later in the Pacific off Seattle, and be picked up by a Russian destroyer.

Digswell owes his place in the payload to the immense popularity in Russia of another series of characters by Driscoll, the *Shoe People*. It was the first Western animated film to be shown in Russia and attracted audiences of 70 million.



Ready for lift-off: Animator James Driscoll with his space-bound creation

Boy of 11 admits crime spree

A boy aged 11, locked up on the orders of the health secretary because he kept absconding from council care, appeared in Leeds Youth Court yesterday and admitted burgling a series of pubs, netting about £30,000.

The boy, from Leeds, sat handcuffed to a policeman as the court clerk spent 30 minutes reading the catalogue of burglaries. He admitted 11 pub break-ins and asked for a further 17 burglaries to be taken into consideration.

The boy, who cannot be named, will be sentenced next Thursday. He was remained in custody to a secure unit.

IRA planted London bombs

The IRA yesterday admitted responsibility for two small bombs that exploded in central London on Wednesday.

The first bomb, planted in a litter bin near Piccadilly Circus, slightly injured five people. The second bomb was placed near a telephone junction box close to the Centre Point base of the Confederation of British Industry in New Oxford Street.

Baby saved

June Hinchliffe, 25, of Bradford, West Yorkshire, was in hospital with a suspected broken leg after pushing her seven-week-old baby Lorna out of the path of a runaway car. The baby was unhurt. The car's handbrake had been released by a child left alone inside, who was also unhurt.

Kidnap remand

Michael Sams, 50, of Sutton on Trent, Nottinghamshire, was further remanded in custody by Birmingham magistrates, charged with the murder of Julie Dart, a Leeds teenager, and the kidnap of Stephanie Slater, a Birmingham estate agent. He was also accused of demanding money with menaces.

Memorial trust

A trust fund has been established in memory of Dr Elizabeth Howe, 34, the Oxford academic murdered at an Open University summer school in York in July. It will be used to help Open University graduates and staff working in women's studies.

Early winners

Australian researchers have confirmed British findings that breast-fed babies are likely to be brighter than those fed by bottle. Tests showed that breast-fed babies responded more strongly to patterns on a video screen and could distinguish finer patterns.

Moving circles

The corn circle group Circles Phenomenon Research has moved its headquarters from Andover, Hampshire, to the United States, blaming a lack of interest by British scientists.

Car milestone

The Nissan car factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear, has produced its 500,000th car, six years after the plant opened.

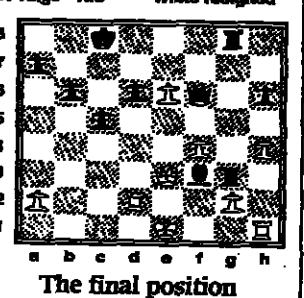
Fischer shows his brilliance

BOBBY Fischer, the American chess genius, has won the sixteenth game of the "World Chess Championship" against Boris Spassky.

Playing with the black pieces, he swept Spassky from the board on Wednesday night, and now leads the match by six wins to three with seven games drawn. The winner of this world record £2.9 million match will be the first to win 10 games.

Fischer, using the Benoni defence, overturned a quarter of a century of chess theory. The position after white's fourteenth move was extremely sharp and had been regarded since 1966 as favouring white. On his fourteenth move, Fischer came up with a brilliant idea—that revved black's chances. By the nineteenth move, all Fischer's forces were mobilised and Spassky's king was without protection. With a few brisk strokes, Fischer demolished his opponent.

White	Black	White	Black
1 d4	Nf6	18 Rf2	Nd7
2 c4	c5	19 Qd4	Ne5
3 d5	exd5	20 Qd4	Bd7
4 Nc3	g6	21 Kf1	0-0
5 e4	Bg7	22 Bf1	Rg8
6 Bg5	h6	23 R4	Nd4
7 Bx6	g5	24 Nf5	Qf7
8 Bg3	c5	25 Qd4	Qd5
9 Bx6	Nx4	26 Rf2	Rd7
10 Bxa4	Bxa4	27 Bx2	Qf7
11 Bxc3	Qxc3	28 Rf2	Ng8
12 Kf1	h5	29 Qd4	Ne5
13 Bf1	Qd8	30 Qd4	Ne5
14 B4	g4	31 Rf2	Bd5
15 Bx5	h4	32 Rf2	g5
16 Ne2	h3	33 Qd4	Ne5
17 Bg3	Rf8	34 Kf1	Bd5



The final position

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9TH OCTOBER

Bottomley unveils third opt-out wave

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE government took a further stride yesterday towards its goal of turning all large hospitals into self-governing units when it announced that 128 new trusts will be created next year.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, also predicted that the National Health Service will escape the worst of the public spending squeeze and that budgets will grow in real terms next year.

The granting of trust status to a third wave of hospitals will mean that almost two thirds of the health service will be run by 284 trusts from next April, she said.

After making her first speech as health secretary to the Conservative party conference, Mrs Bottomley dispelled fears that the government

Despite calls from conference speakers for a ban on tobacco advertising, however, Mrs Bottomley later ruled out such a move.

Expanding on the aims of the government white paper aimed at creating a fitter and healthier population, Mrs Bottomley announced that the patient's charter, establishing the rights of NHS patients, would be extended to cover primary care services.

Patients will be given details of their right to be registered with a GP, to change doctors and to receive emergency primary health care at any time.

Announcing the third wave of hospital trusts, Mrs Bottomley said that enthusiasm and support for the central part of the government's health service reforms had multiplied. The growth in the number of patients treated in trusts was greater than that in other parts of the National Health Service. She insisted that NHS trusts were "better for patients and better for staff".

The health secretary said that, over the next few years, almost all hospitals would come forward, although she would not commit herself to a definite timetable.

"I am not planning an edict. Some will take longer than others," Mrs Bottomley said.

She also underlined her commitment to improve care for mental illness, which she said had a "crushing, destructive impact" on victims and their families.

Mrs Bottomley also called on local authorities to behave "fairly and properly" when they take over responsibility from social services for funding community care next year.

"For any Labour-run council still harbouring an ideological grudge against the independent sector, I have a message: drop it. There is no place for out-dated socialist spite when it comes to caring for the elderly and frail," the health secretary said.



Virginia Bottomley yesterday: "There is no place for out-dated socialist spite"

NHS puts trust in market

Jeremy Laurance looks at the future of the third wave of hospital trusts

ALMOST every NHS hospital will have become a trust run independently by its own board of governors within two years, if the present rate of progress continues. The health service will have been transformed from a state-run monopoly to a state-financed market.

The big difference for the hospitals is that they will live or die by their own success in the market. They will be free from local health authority interference but will also be without the security of its support. This freedom, which may turn out to be more theoretical than real, is intended to provide the spur to increased efficiency.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, claimed yesterday that early indications from the first and second waves of trusts, covering 156 hospitals and community units, suggested that the policy was working. They had increased the number of patients treated by a higher percentage than non-trust hospitals in the first year of the reforms, she said.

However, those selected were the cream of the bunch, with the soundest financial base, the best management and the most advanced infor-

margin. A hospital worthy of the name will have to provide a broad range of services.

In many areas of the country served by a single district general hospital, there are no opportunities for competition. Here, the chief danger is of the health authority and hospital entering too cosy a relationship from which the public would be the loser. The health department has recognised the need for supervision to prevent such collusion, probably by reconstituted regional health authorities, but ministers have still to announce what form it will take.

Outside the main conurbations, the freedom of health authorities to contract with whichever hospital they choose is likely to be limited in practice by their responsibility for "their" trust. Brighton could send patients to Eastbourne or Worthing but would be reluctant to bankrupt the Brighton General.

The main effects of trust status will be felt in the cities where hospitals are competing head to head and there is over-provision. The axe poised today over London's hospitals threatens those in Birmingham, Manchester and Newcastle tomorrow.

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might be forced to go back on its manifesto pledge that there would be an above-inflation increase in NHS spending.

"It will survive. I stand by the manifesto," she told reporters.

Health spending next year is planned to increase by 3 per cent in real terms. Her remark did not eliminate the likelihood that this figure would be trimmed.

Mrs Bottomley used her speech to underline her "twin goals" of achieving better quality service and better health.

She also pledged a full-scale commitment "to beat avoidable ill health, in particular alcohol abuse and tobacco-related disease".

The two types of illness cost Britain 58 million working days each year, Mrs Bottomley said.

"The NHS cannot afford the cost. Our economy cannot afford the cost. Individuals and families pay the price."

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Rifkind seeks savings on fighter project

By ROBERT MORGAN

DEFENCE ministers from the four countries participating in the European Fighter Aircraft project are likely to meet at the end of next month to consider the future of the project, Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after the annual defence debate at the Conservative party conference in Brighton, he said that Britain's defence chiefs were currently assessing the need for such a sophisticated aircraft in the light of changed world conditions. The aircraft was conceived before the end of the Cold war and the breakup of the former Soviet Union.

Technical assessments were also being made to see if money could be saved, Mr Rifkind said. He declined to be drawn on whether Britain would go it alone if Italy and Spain followed Germany's stated intention and withdrew.

The Royal Air Force, the defence secretary said, would have to have a new fighter by the turn of the century.

The crucial question was whether an alternative would be available at less cost to the taxpayer.

He did not think scrapping the project and starting again, as the Germans seemed to want to do, would produce a cheaper aircraft, and pointed out that £5 billion had already been spent by the four nations on development.

Mr Rifkind told reporters he did not think the aircraft would be scrapped under the present tough public expenditure round because production was not due to start for several years.

Speaking in the conference, Mr Rifkind made clear that British troops being sent to the former Yugoslavia would be deployed solely for the protection of humanitarian convoys.

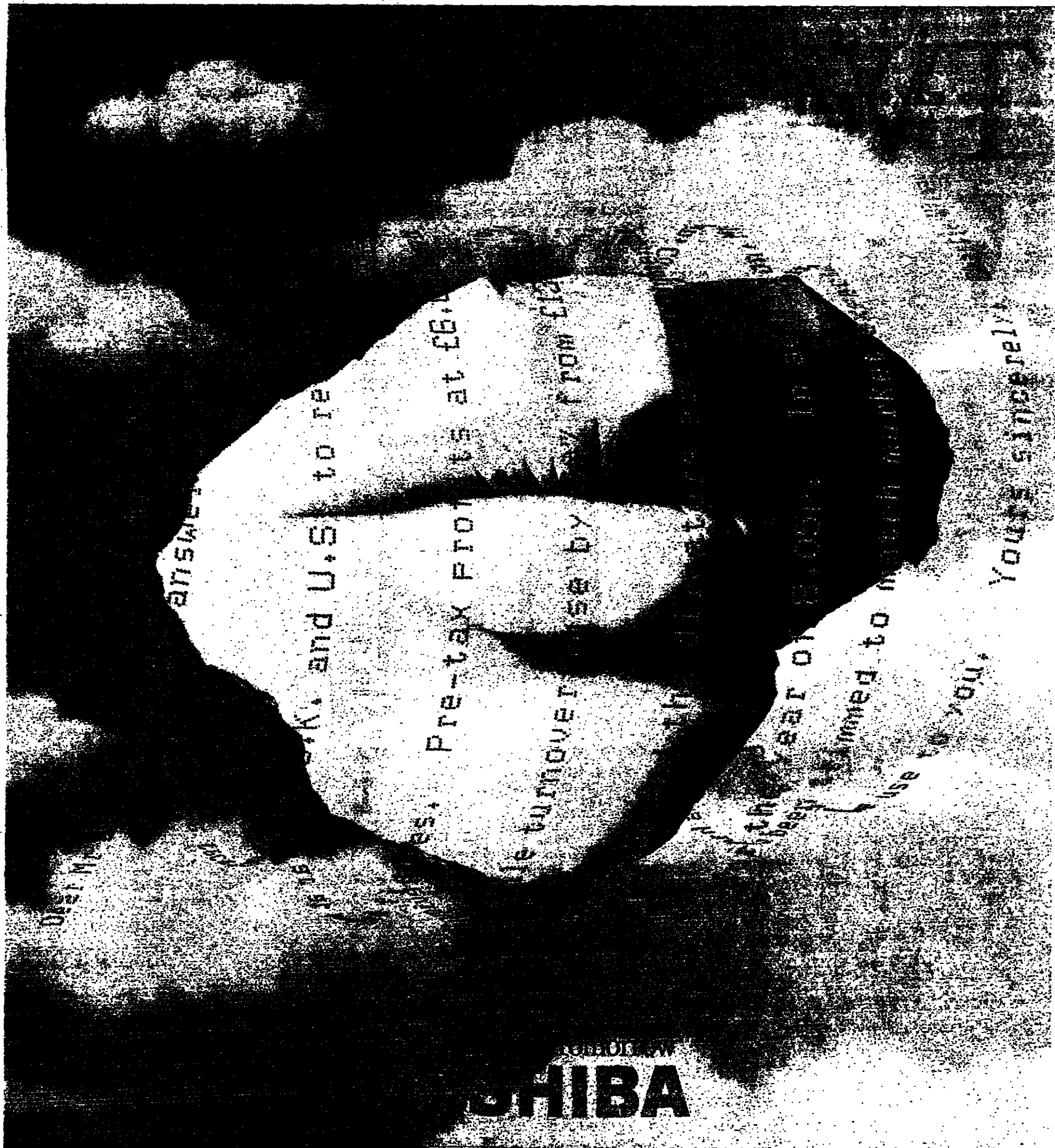
The deployment of an international military force to end the fighting was not a realistic option, Mr Rifkind said.

He sought to reassure representatives concerned about cuts under Options for Change that if it looked as though the army, and particularly the infantry, was being cut back too far, the country's defence needs would take priority over the need to save money.

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Holiday may be scrapped but what would replace it?

May Day call from Shephard

By ALAN HAMILTON

GILLIAN Shephard, the employment secretary, broadcast a May Day message to the Conservative conference yesterday. The spring public holiday in honour of international socialism and working class solidarity will, if she has anything to do with it, be well and truly sunk.

Her department will shortly issue a discussion document to industry and other interested parties seeking suggestions for an alternative.

Mrs Shephard's excuse is that three public holidays stumble upon each other in a few brief weeks of spring, although she also remarked that the anniversary had been forced upon the country by the TUC in those Stone Age days of the 1970s.

It was in fact introduced by Michael Foot, as leader of the Commons during the Callaghan government, in 1978.

Union leaders quickly retorted yesterday that organised labour would continue to take May Day off whether Mrs Shephard liked it or not.

Shopfloor opinion at the Brighton conference, on the other hand, has little doubt about what it wants in its place: Trafalgar Day. Nelson

TRAFALGAR DAY?

hoisted his signal, was kissed by Hardy, defeated two other EC member states, and lost his life, on October 21, a time of year conveniently bereft of public holidays in Britain.

The employment department said yesterday that it had not exactly been besieged with suggestions for an alternative holiday, but with the impending issue of a consultation paper, and Mrs Shephard's hint that May Day should be gone by 1995, they expected that to change.

Contrary to what many Tory backwoodsmen are fond of saying to support their view of native industrial lassitude, Britain does not suffer from an overdose of public holidays. Far from it.

We have only eight, the lowest in the EC after the Netherlands. The Spanish top the league with 14, and even the supposedly industrious Germans have ten.

EC states have no plans at present to harmonise public holidays across the Community. Celebrating victory over the French and Spanish fleets at Trafalgar might not be the most felicitous way to smooth

a passage to the ratification of Maastricht.

Offence could be avoided by keeping October 21, but celebrating instead the birth of Coleridge in 1772, the first performance of Offenbach's can-can in 1858, or the first successful test of an electric light bulb in 1879.

Anniversaries around that time of year are fraught with difficulty which would not help relations between European nations at a time when they are not at an all-time high. The Battle of Hastings



Foot: founded workers' celebration in 1978

was won by a bunch of French apple-growers on October 14, although Henry V and his English bowmen redressed the balance at Agincourt on October 25.

Other European countries manage a holiday in those weary far-end times between summer and Christmas.

The French go for Armistice Day on November 11, the Germans for Unity Day on October 3, and the Portuguese for Republic Day on October 5.

The southern Catholic countries also have Immaculate Conception Day on December 8, but Britain does retain one advantage over all the others.

If Christmas Day on the continent falls on a Sunday, too bad: in Britain, a public holiday falling during a weekend earns a weekday off in lieu.

If we must have a public holiday in the autumn, and we wish not to offend any European sensibilities, it would seem safest to plump for September 23, the day Themistocles held off the Persian fleet at the battle of Salamis and altered the course of European history in a manner no one could possibly argue about.



In step: John Major steps out at the Young Conservatives' ball

Thatcher is gently rebuked

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

In its own way the Conservative conference gently rebuked Baroness Thatcher, so often its hero. After the barrage of attacks she has unleashed at John Major's European policy, most recently yesterday morning, her sole appearance on the Brighton platform was awaited with trepidation by the leadership.

It knew that massive acclaim for her would be interpreted as the conference's backing for the line she took in her article in *The European* savaging the Maastricht treaty.

When she appeared just before the environment debate in the morning it seemed its worst fears were to be realised as a foot-stamping, chattering ovation began. Representatives stood, waved their Union flags, and one flourished a "Come Back Maggie" placard.

But the television pictures did not tell the whole story. A good quarter of the representatives stayed firmly and deliberately in their seats, many of them declining even to clap.

Last year Lady Thatcher had been cheered for nearly seven minutes, and the conference almost went out of control. This time after two and a half minutes John Mason, the chairman, had little difficulty in restoring order, and the debate was allowed to proceed. Although the indication was that Lady Thatcher would

PM to take tough line with sceptics

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major asked his team of writers last night to stiffen sections of today's critical speech challenging the Euro-sceptics' case against the Maastricht treaty.

A more "aggressive" tone is expected to be adopted by the prime minister in challenging head-on the onslaughts made by Baroness Thatcher, Lord Ridley of Liddesdale and others. One aide said that, in spite of a brief flirtation during the election campaign with a new style, Mr Major has dropped any idea of aping the brutalistic delivery of a Lord Tebbit. The emphasis will be on presenting himself as constant, determined and confident.

Although a committee of his closest aides has been working on his keynote conference speech for some months, it is an inner core of speech writers which has been charged with redrafting whole swaths of the text in their suites in Brighton's Grand Hotel this week. Ironically, a crucial figure has proved to be Sir Ronald

Millar, knighted by Lady Thatcher after spending 16 years as her speech writer.

Mr Major initially eschewed Sir Ronald's skills as a phrase-maker and master of the "sound bite" last year. However, at the last minute he called in the playwright to inject some gloss into his text. The result was a highly personal account of his rise from Coldharbour Lane to Downing Street, but it was a speech he could make only once.

This autumn Sir Ronald was brought in from the word go to brush a light touch over parts of the speech and, also, to work on Mr Major's delivery. For the former prime minister, Sir Ronald provided many lines that have become part of the political folklore, including "The lady's not for turning". Yesterday Mr Major's aides were talking of "more jokes" being added by Sir Ronald to lighten the text.



say a few words, Mr Mason announced that Lady Thatcher "has specifically said to me that she does not want to speak".

Tory conferences have always been loyal to their leaders, as Lady Thatcher will have remembered from her last tumultuous reception in 1990, only weeks before she was deposed. Yesterday it seemed to be telling her to lay off her successor.

Sir Norman Fowler, the party chairman, had earlier prepared for the worst by suggesting that the impending ovation was little more than a show of affection. "She will be welcome here as a former leader of the party who is very much loved and respected," he said.

Mr Major seemed to benefit from Lady Thatcher's attack on him. When he entered the conference some 30 minutes after her he received a warm and seemingly unanimous welcome. He took Lady Thatcher's hands and kissed her on the cheek. It was a true, but it may only last until today.

Matthew Parris, page 1
Thatcherism, page 14

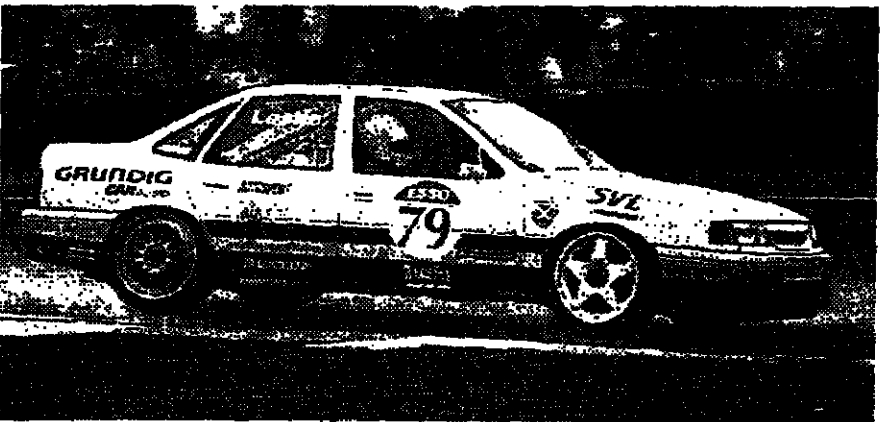
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Conquest of inflation becomes centrepiece of economic strategy outside ERM

Defiant Chancellor warns of clamp on public spending

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND RAY CLANCY

NORMAN Lamont delivered an unapologetic defence of his handling of the sterling crisis yesterday and made the conquest of inflation the centrepiece of economic policy.

The Chancellor sought to fit the spirits of his despairing party by insisting that the decision he was taking on inflation, the money supply and tight control of public spending was an answer to critics' claims that the pound's suspension from the exchange-rate mechanism had ripped the heart out of his strategy.

He also tried to dispel some of the gloom by holding out the prospect of tax cuts in the longer-term and by maintaining that the decision to float the pound meant that British industry had gained a huge competitive advantage.

But he disappointed many representatives by not being more emphatic about staying out of the ERM after the turmoil of last month. He was also markedly less optimistic about the benefits of withdrawing from the currency union, damping hopes of more interest rate cuts.

An austere Mr Lamont spoke of his "unshakeable determination" to stand by "conservative principles of sound money, lower taxes and a government that would return to the economy if the government were to lose its grip."

"We have beaten inflation before with a floating pound and, with the same determination, we will do it again. So at there be no doubt about Britain's economic policy. It is clear, it is credible and it is the right policy for Britain. We will follow it to the hilt."

During his speech, the beleaguered Chancellor disclosed an unusual source of comfort during recent weeks. Holding up a postcard, he said: "I was particularly grateful to a Mr and Mrs Evans... I'm afraid they didn't give me their address. But they sent me this postcard of a little girl jumping up and down on her rampole. And with it was the caption: 'Never give up!'."

Summarising the action he was taking to flesh out policy in the light of the pound's exit from the ERM, Mr Lamont said he was putting in place something we have never had before — a specific, quantifiable target for inflation. There would also be a full range of indicators against which to judge the rate of the economy and the tightest possible control of public spending, bolstered by

a new cabinet approach announced in July.

This meant that the government would only spend what it could afford. It was not radical, it was common sense. Mr Lamont said: "Outside the ERM, there is even more reason to keep a firm grip on public spending... In the past the annual public spending round has simply encouraged ministers to make higher and higher bids for more public money that was not there... That nonsense had to end."

"Starting this year, there will be a ceiling for the total increase in public spending, beyond which we will not go... At a time when businesses and families have had to

'We have beaten inflation before with a floating pound and we'll do it again'

tighten their belts and weather a difficult recession, the government should be expected to do the same. This applies above all to public sector pay."

The Chancellor's uncomfortable message was that the forced devaluation of sterling must not be allowed to lead to a resurgence of inflation. "Inside or outside the ERM, our policy objective must remain the same — to bring our underlying inflation rate down to the levels enjoyed by our major world competitors."

But to a conference crying out for swift and decisive action to restore growth and boost jobs and output, Mr Lamont's failure to hold out the prospect of cheaper money and an early end to the recession proved depressing.

The Chancellor said he had no "magic wand to put things right" and maintained that other countries were in much the same boat as Britain. He

offered no apologies over his conduct during the sterling crisis. "I have not heard of a single thing that might have been done or handled differently that would have produced a different outcome."

Mr Lamont, who said he was "singing in the bath" after the pound was ejected from the ERM, is widely believed to have had reservations about membership of the currency grid. He has been applauded in the Commons by Eurosceptic MPs for his apparent eagerness to exploit the opportunities offered by a floating pound.

But his attempt to appeal to this wing of the party yesterday backfired. "Now the pound is floating," he said to shouts of "murder" from the floor. But he was heckled with cries of "never" when he indicated that he might rejoin eventually, when it was "right for Britain."

In an unpopular defence of past policy, he said: "The last two years have not been wasted. There is not a painless way to get inflation down. We had to do what we did. We now have an excellent foundation on which to build."

But signalling that a cut in interest rates was far from imminent, he said: "I will not throw away two years' hard work for two weeks' easy headlines."

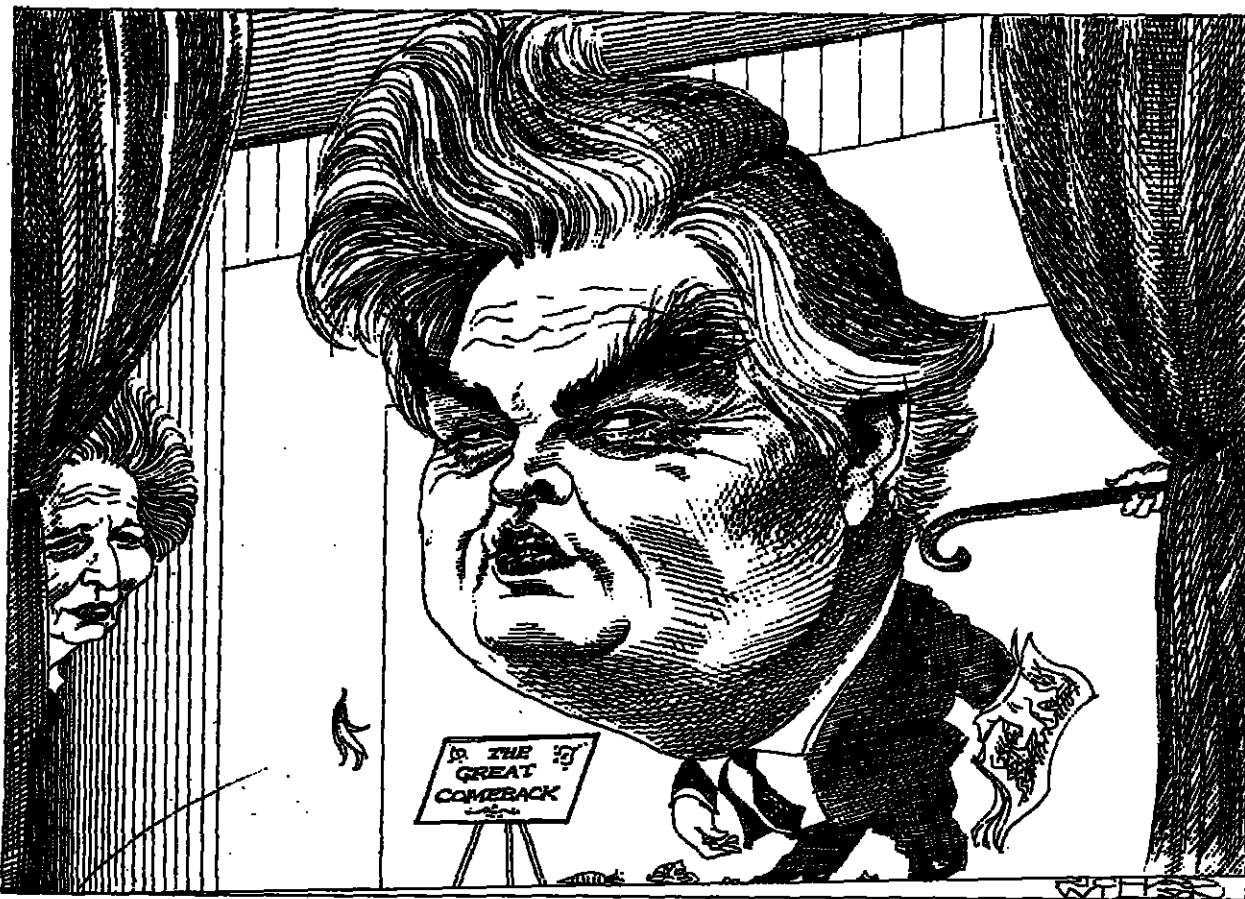
The floating of the pound meant that British exports had "suddenly gained a huge competitive advantage. Now is the time for British exporters to launch an offensive on markets in Germany, in France, in Spain and in Italy."

"Business now has the opportunity it has been waiting for to increase its sales, expand its turnover, improve its profits and plough the money back into more jobs and higher investment."

Nicholas Ridley and Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15
City reaction, page 19



Full of bounce: the card that cheered Mr Lamont



Staging a comeback: Norman Lamont finds trouble waiting in the wings at Brighton yesterday

Faithful demand end to Euro-marriage

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, ROBERT MORGAN AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Tory faithful yesterday turned on Norman Lamont over his handling of the economy during the past two years, warning him that they would not tolerate a return to the European exchange-rate mechanism and demanding drastic cuts in interest rates to halt the rising tide of business failures.

In an explosion of pent-up frustration at the length and depth of the recession, speaker after speaker accused Mr Lamont of leaving the economy rudderless and failing to put British interests first. They urged a return to the free-market policies of the early to mid-1980s.

Abandoning the usual courtesies of a Tory conference, party members subjected Mr Lamont to an assault of rare ferocity, accusing him of kicking Tory supporters "in the teeth", bleeding small businesses to death and making traditional industries and firms fear for their survival.

Of the 14 speakers from the floor, only one called for an immediate return to the ERM. He was jeered and told by a heckler that he was at the wrong conference. Afterwards, one minister wearily wondered what had become of the Tories' famed conference stage-management.

The debate was marked by a rampant hostility to Brussels and the Bundesbank, with speakers winning rapturous receptions for attacks on the government's past policy of pegging sterling to the mark. Extravagant demands for cheaper loans extended to calls for as much as five percentage

REACTION

points off the lending rate.

Only one speaker, Monica Drinkwater, from Cheltenham, successfully came to the Chancellor's aid, winning sustained applause for her rebuke to party elders for rocking the boat and for her call for unity behind the Chancellor.

Dee-Dee Dobell, from Yeovil, said that the government was lost in fog with "no captain or navigator and a pursuer who sounds unsure how he is going to finance the trip home."

Patricia Morris (Oldham Central and Royton), was ecstatically received after she began her speech: "It's the first duty of the British government to put British interests first. We must not be governed by a hopelessly ambitious agenda prepared and pursued by others. Let us return to the real agenda for British recovery and British jobs and British businesses." She called for a return to policies of the 1980s that had brought "expanded

ownership, a rise in living standards and a successful Britain — hallmarks of Conservative government until we began to flirt with membership of the ERM."

Mrs Morris, who won the rare accolade for a floor speaker of a standing ovation, condemned the ERM "marriage" of 1990, saying that even the Bundesbank had struggled to satisfy "ten wives at the same time". She added: "Thank God for the divorce."

Stephen Hillier (Cambridge) said that the high street banks could help recovery if they adopted a position halfway between the lax days of a few years ago and the sanctimonious piety of today.

Andrew Tinney (South Eastern area) called for reductions of up to five percentage points and urged Mr Lamont: "Don't go back into a fixed exchange-rate system in my lifetime." Peter Slater (Purney) told the conference: "We want growth in the economy and what we need is a cut in interest rates."

Stephen Hammond (Stev-

enage) said the ERM had been like penicillin: it had worked as a cure for inflation at first, but now the patient had become resistant and a new cure was required.

Pat Harvey (North Cornwall), said that small businesses would lead the economy out of recession, but they had taken a hammering and were bleeding to death. They needed help. The Chancellor should look at the uniform business rate, she said to applause. Interest rates were far too high and there was far too much government interference.

Vernon Davies (South West Essex Euro-Council) was cheered when he said the recent disaster of the ERM had proved that "we cannot depend on the Germans when the chips are down." "Let Britain lead and not follow."

Philip Allott (Harrowgate) was booed when he called for a return to the ERM and said that life had got become tougher since sterling's exit because prices were being forced up.

Walters predicts early return

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Sir Alan Walters, former economic adviser to Margaret Thatcher, predicted yesterday that John Major would take Britain back into the European exchange-rate mechanism within six or nine months.

As the battle of the fringes continued, Sir Alan told a group of Eurosceptics that the Maastricht treaty was so inter-linked with the ERM that, if the prime minister backed the treaty, he must also rejoin the pegged exchange-rate system.

His speech was largely based on broadcasting an "I told you so" message, warning against the evils of closer European monetary union. He had said in 1987 that because of the perverse impact of the

ERM "roller coaster", technically the system would explode. For that, he said, he had been reviled by most Tory MPs.

Although the ERM had blown up, presenting Britain with a wonderful opportunity, Sir Alan said he feared Mr Major would be shoe-horned back into the mechanism.

Sir Leon Brittan, took a sharply contrasting view at a fringe meeting and rebuked Eurosceptics for living in a dream world if they believed British interests were best served by rejecting Maastricht.

Britain's senior EC commissioner told a fringe meeting of the Bow Group that, far from enabling the government to defend national jobs and businesses, rejection would condemn Britain to "inglorious isolation" at the mercy of every cold wind from across the Channel. He said the deal negotiated by John Major presented a rare occasion of having your cake and eating it.

Lamont left in limbo after speech test

Just before Norman Lamont stood up to speak yesterday, a prominent pro-European member of the cabinet said to me: "If he hedges, we're done for." As the Chancellor sat down, the minister looked across and said: "Good. He's passed the test. There was no hedging about fighting inflation."

However, Mr Lamont did not satisfy many at the conference who were looking for an openly expansionist approach. He is still in political limbo.

Mr Lamont was always going to find it hard to reconcile the demands of many of the Tory rank-and-file, and of the financial markets — the one looking for action to ignite recovery and the other fearful of a rekindling of inflation. In the end, he tilted more to the latter, while leaving open questions about what will happen in practice. But he left scope for some small cuts in interest rates.

The scars of the recession and of sterling's withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism will take a long time to heal. During a remarkably open discussion yesterday, which made one minister nostalgic for the days of managed debates, several speakers complained about the impact of government policy and of higher interest rates upon small businesses. The criticism was much sharper than at the Tory party conferences during the recession of the early 1980s.

Moreover, as during Tuesday's European debate, there was an anti-German edge to many comments. Any mention of withdrawal from the ERM was cheered

RIDDELL IN BRIGHTON

and any suggestion of re-entry was booed. And if foreigners were not being blamed, the press was.

A restless mood has surfaced in several of the week's debates, reflecting the impact of the recession and a feeling that the government has lost its way.

Mr Lamont provided a partial answer yesterday. The view of the cabinet majority that the government should stick to its previous European and economic strategies has prevailed. Just as the cabinet is

'For the moment, the pro-Europeans in the cabinet have won... Yesterday's speech was, however, only the first instalment of a lengthy debate about economic strategy'

pressing ahead with ratification of the Maastricht treaty, so Mr Lamont made clear that the government has rejected the option of a "dash for growth" by slashing interest rates. He was even firmer in his letter to the chairman of the Commons Treasury committee than in his speech about the priority of reducing and holding down inflation. Now is the time, he argued, to "make a conclusive break to permanent lower inflation."

The purists may point out that the new objectives of an underlying inflation rate of 2 per cent or less in the long term and of a range of 1 to 4 per cent in this parliament are less stringent than previ-

ous talk of zero inflation, especially as Mr Lamont left a way out if there are sharp movements in commodity prices. Zero inflation, however, has always been more a vague aspiration than a practical target and the new goals may turn out to be as demanding over the medium term. By defining the target in terms of underlying inflation excluding mortgage interest payments, the government will not be able to treat as a victory the likely fall in the headline inflation rate over the winter.

However, Eurosceptics disagree with what Mr Lamont said yesterday. One minister commented that the risk of higher inflation was much exaggerated and

however, only the first instalment of a lengthy cabinet debate about economic strategy, about interest rates and the pound, and eventually about the timing of re-entry to the ERM. Most ministers hope that by taking a firm stance now, and enduring a difficult year to 18 months, the government can ensure that the economy is in reasonable shape by the next general election. Their fear is that, if the government went for growth now, there might have to be a squeeze just before the next election.

The difficulty, as always, is getting from here to there. Mr Lamont may have filled the policy vacuum yesterday, but he failed to win over all his party. His authority as Chancellor remains shaky. The odds are still that he will complete the review of economic policy and the public spending round, present the autumn statement next month and then leave the Treasury for a new cabinet post, battered but with some dignity.

John Major has also had an uncomfortable week. Lord Tebbit may have gone over the top and Baroness Thatcher overreached herself by appearing disloyal. However, their interventions and the rumbustious debates have highlighted divisions in the Tory party, which range far wider than Maastricht, and have undermined Mr Major's standing as leader. He will receive a warm ovation this afternoon, but he still has to convince his party, and the country, of where he is leading the government.

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Bonn rules out referendum

Bundestag falls into line on Maastricht

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN

THEO Waigel, the German finance minister, pledged yesterday that the German parliament would have the final say on whether the country should enter the final stage of monetary union.

The point was supported by speakers from the opposition Social Democrats. Spokesmen of the main parties rejected calls for a referendum on ratification of the Maastricht treaty. Herr Waigel said that the Maastricht treaty does not mean that there will be "automatic entry" by currencies

fulfilling the necessary conditions, although this is in fact what the treaty says. He also emphasised, in implicit contradiction to President Mitterrand of France, that a European central bank would be independent of political control like the present Bundesbank.

Herr Waigel was speaking during the first reading of the Maastricht treaty in the Bundestag, parliament's lower house. All the German parties, except for the former communist PDS, expressed their sup-

port for the treaty, and the government has said that it hopes that the ratification process will be completed by December 18, shortly after the Edinburgh summit.

Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, said: "It is up to us to say 'yes' to the Maastricht accord to send a signal of confidence in a common European future to those of our partners who are still hesitant." He said that before the European Community nations trade their currencies for a common European one by 1999, parliament will have to vote on giving up the mark. "No federal government can take such a far-reaching decision without the backing of a parliamentary majority."

The debate also made clear the reservations about the course of European unification which now exist across German society. Werner Schultz, a Green deputy, said that the debate reminded him of a surreal film. "Most deputies are actually unhappy with the present treaty, but are going to go ahead and ratify it all the same."

Many of the speeches yesterday were in fact based more on emotional than economic arguments, with several deputies stating that European union is necessary to combat the growing forces of nationalism both inside and outside Germany.

Herr Schultz added that more than 50 per cent of European voters were unhappy with the Maastricht process, and that "true European integration cannot be achieved on the basis of shoddy political compromises".

□ Madrid: José María Aznar, leader of the main opposition party in the Spanish Congress, the conservative People's Party, has said that, if he comes to power in next year's general election, he would follow John Major's monetary policy and take the peseta out of the EMS (Edward Owen writes). He said that he planned to reduce taxes and increase savings and investments.



Setting the mark: Theo Waigel, the finance minister, promising the Bundestag yesterday that Germany would not take part in any currency union unless all EC members kept to the Maastricht treaty requirements

Amato calls confidence vote on cuts

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY'S government yesterday called a parliamentary vote of confidence for today on the cuts it wants in spending on the health service, state pensions, the civil service and local government finance.

The vote was called after a meeting of the leaders of the coalition of Socialists, Christian Democrats, Social Democrats and Liberals. It is designed to cut through the 1,122 amendments tabled by opposition deputies and rebels in the ruling parties to the "Delegated Law" on the public services that Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, sees as a vital complement to his 1993 austerity budget.

Financial markets were optimistic that the government would be able to force the harsh measures through parliament. The lira recovered against the mark for a second day. But political observers said that, once the measures and the budget were passed, it was likely that Signor Amato would be defeated in parliament and forced to resign.

Danes set out their EC options

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

DENMARK'S Conservative-Liberal government will unveil on Monday a white paper outlining the country's options for continued co-operation within the European Community, the prime minister's office said.

The paper will form the basis for all-party negotiations this autumn on a formula for Denmark's future role in the EC following its narrow rejection of the Maastricht treaty on closer European union.

At Tuesday's opening of the Folketing (parliament), Poul Schlüter, the prime minister, made an impassioned appeal for more openness and less centralism in European institutions. This sentiment met with general approval in yesterday's first parliamentary debate of the new session.

Mr Schlüter, in his address, gave a warning against the creation of a United States of Europe. "The treaty cannot be put into force by the other 11 EC members until a solution to Denmark's problems has been reached."

French feminists applaud a Royal decree

A woman minister's tinkering with the French language has set off academic shock waves, Charles Bremner writes

STILL grappling with the notion of sexual harassment and the arrival of women riot police, the fragile French male has been dealt another blow with a linguistic order from Mme Ségolène Royal, the environment minister.

Mme Royal, 39, decreed that henceforward she must be addressed as *Madame la ministre* instead of *Madame le ministre*. In calmer times, the change might not send shock waves all the way from the corner café to the Académie Française, but Mme Royal's edict looked all too much like another feminist power grab against the ruling patriarchy. "Why didn't she go the whole hog and call herself *Madame la ministrasse*?" sniffed Jean Dutourd, 72, a man of letters.

Mme Royal's decision amounts to a slap at the practice, officially decreed by the academy in 1984, which keeps the masculine version of a professional position while sticking Madame in front of it. The logic is the same as the one which has dismissed "authoress", "poetess" and more recently "actress" in English.

In the absence of a neuter gender in French, the academy said only the masculine ending could represent both sexes. So, for example, a woman ambassador is *Mme*

l'ambassadeur while an ambassador's wife is *Mme l'ambassadeur*. Danielle Mitterrand is *Mme la présidente* but when Edith Cresson served as prime minister, she was *Mme le premier ministre*.

By trying to make minister feminine, Mme Royal is committing, to some French ears, almost as grave a linguistic offence as those Anglo-Saxons who insist on saying "herstory" for history. Her action was applauded by feminists who have been waging a war of linguistic

polemics similar to the politically correct American school. Led by Luce Irigaray, a psychiatrist and militant feminist, this group says French women are the victims of linguistic tyranny imposed through grammatical gender.

It is not by chance, says Mme Irigaray, that *la pluie* (rain) is feminine and *le beau temps* (fine weather) is masculine. Why is a lowly chair (*chaise*) feminine and an armchair (*fauteuil*) masculine? Why is a house feminine but a castle masculine? According to Benoîte Groult, a leading feminist writer, French mutilates women just as certain African peoples inflict genital mutilation on girls.

Interlude from Provence. Life & Times, page 1

Egyptians launch drive for peace

Jerusalem: Israel and Syria came under renewed diplomatic pressure to show more flexibility in the peace process as Egypt launched a surprise diplomatic initiative to bring the two sides together (Ricard Beeston writes).

Amr Moussa, foreign minister of Egypt, arrived in Israel bearing a message for Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister from President Mubarak. "We are trying to build confidence," said Mr Moussa. "Israel is called upon to take certain steps. The Arab side also going to take certain steps."

Mr Moussa referred to recent Syrian offers of "a peace" with Israel in return for all the land captured by Israel in the 1967 Six Day War.

Kurds killed

Ankara: Twenty people, including 17 Kurdish separatist guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers' party, were killed eastern Turkey in the past 10 days, according to security officials. (Reuters)

Rebel gets life

Lima: Military judges have convicted Abimael Guzmán, the captured leader of the Shining Path guerrillas, of treason and jailed him for life, without parole. (AP)

Chief jailed

Mexico City: The former chief of Interpol in Mexico was sentenced to 12 years in prison for drug trafficking and illegal arms possession. Miguel Aldana Ibarra was arrested in February 1990 with 3.52lb of cocaine and six guns. (AFP)

Criminals shot

Peking: Twenty-six people have been shot dead in north eastern China for offences such as rape and murder. They were among 55 criminals sentenced at the end of September at a public meeting in Harbin. (AFP)



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Revenge of Yeltsin deprives Gorbachev of his power base

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

MIKHAIL Gorbachev was unceremoniously evicted from his offices yesterday, only a day after declaring that President Yeltsin was failing to cope with reform and should transfer power to a collective leadership.

In the greatest, but possibly not the last, humiliation meted out to the architect of perestroika, a big police force surrounded and entered the smart buildings where Mr Gorbachev's political think-tank was located.

"They will find pieces of gold, millions of dollars and stocks of weapons," Mr Gorbachev remarked sarcastically to reporters as Arkadi Murashev, Moscow's young police chief, acted swiftly to fulfil President Yeltsin's order that he be evicted.

Angry and defiant, Mr Gorbachev stood on the steps outside the main building and said that Mr Yeltsin's action was a form of revenge as part of their continuing feud. "Yesterday I said that the president is incapable of doing his job. As you can see, he has shown what he is capable of."

The former Soviet leader has exposed himself to controversy recently by his repeated refusal to appear at the trial of the Communist party, of which he was leader for six years. The court has imposed token fines on him for contempt and secured a ban on his leaving the country.

A decree issued by President Yeltsin on Wednesday night transferred control of the think-tank's city premises, and also its property in the Moscow suburbs, to a new banking academy where young Russians would be trained in financial services.

Neither of the farm boys who dominated Soviet politics during the twilight of communism ever bothered to conceal his dislike of the other. For Mr Yeltsin, the eviction was a moment of sweet revenge for the terrible day in November 1987 when he was summoned to attend a meeting of the Moscow Communist party, of which he was boss. For four hours, Mr Gorbachev and his Politburo colleagues — including Eduard Shevardnadze — subjected Mr Yeltsin to a public denunciation that reduced him to a trembling wreck who could barely stammer out a contrite resignation speech.

Members of the Yeltsin administration would argue that there are more substantial reasons than revenge for censoring Mr Gorbachev. Nikolai Fedorov, the justice minister, has criticised him for gross disrespect of the Russian judicial system.

A hint of how embarrassing it could be for Mr Gorbachev to testify before prosecutors with access to the Politburo files emerged earlier this week, during a court appearance by Yegor Ligachev, a former central committee member. A government lawyer read out minutes of a Politburo meeting which considered the application for an exit visa by Yelena Bonner, the half-Jewish wife of the dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov.

Viktor Chebrikov, the KGB chairman, commented that "Sakharov's behaviour is determined by Bonner's influence." At this point, Mr Gorbachev interjected: "That's Zionism for you."

Mr Gorbachev's refusal to testify and Mr Yeltsin's decree cast doubt on the commitment both proclaim to a "law-based" state. The episode tends to confirm a favourite saying here: "This is not a country of laws, but a country of power."

Leading article, page 15



Locked out: Mikhail Gorbachev showing his surprise on finding policemen blocking the entrance to his offices in Moscow yesterday

Georgians flee as war panic grows

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN SUKHUMI

SUKHUMI, capital of the breakaway Georgian region of Abkhazia, was thrown into panic yesterday as hundreds of Georgians tried to flee, fearing an imminent attack by separatist forces.

Swarms of people, mostly women and children, fought to climb on board a 150-seater TU154 aircraft which arrived from Tbilisi. It had been commandeered by Georgian forces to convey extra men and arms into the region, and ferry increasingly desperate refugees out.

The airport is under daily siege by civilians clamouring to leave, driven by the twin momentum of justified fear that the conflict will widen, and overheated propaganda from their side about impending full-scale war. These fears have been fed by rumours that Russian tanks are moving towards the city. Despite the absence of any fighting in the vicinity, the process appears unstoppable.

Some 600 people have been leaving by air every day. The railway link with the rest of Georgia has been cut, and the roads are impassable. High winds on the Black Sea yesterday meant that the airport provided the only escape from the city. Flights are overloaded, with passengers standing in the aisles, toilets and even the pilot's cabin.

The movement was unleashed by the recent successes of the Abkhazians in securing extra territory in western Georgia, and by the increasing confidence of their forces



in forays around Sukhumi. Two bombs fell on the airport earlier this week, and a radar ship anchored on the Black Sea has been hit and set on fire. "We had to leave," said Nana Batasvili, 74, who was interviewed earlier as she arrived at Tbilisi airport clutching her two granddaughters.

"We were very scared after last weekend. Our boys are very brave, but the Abkhazians are getting more and more support from Russia, and we do not know if there are enough of them to hold off the enemy," she said. "We do not want to see another Yugoslavia. Up to a quarter of the city's 125,000 population are now thought to have fled."

With elections due on Sunday, many Georgians are placing their faith in Eduard Shevardnadze to avoid any further intensification of the conflict.

President Yeltsin of Russia said yesterday he expected to meet Mr Shevardnadze and Vladimir Ardzinba, the Abkhazian leader, on board a ship off Sukhumi on Tuesday.

Greenpeace ship sails to test 'Chernobyl' of the Arctic

BY BRUCE CLARK

A GREENPEACE ship set off yesterday for a stretch of Arctic water that has been denounced as a potential maritime Chernobyl — the Kara Sea, on whose bottom lie 15 nuclear reactors and 17,000 barrels of nuclear waste.

With a crew of Western and Russian scientists, the Solo left Murmansk in the early hours for the eastern shores of the Novaya Zemlya islands, which for the past 22 years have been a dumping ground for nuclear detritus. The environmental lobby group has alleged that the waters around the archipelago, itself a controversial site for nuclear tests, contain 3 million curies of radioactivity — three times as much as has been released into the Irish Sea by the plant at Sellafield.

The expedition is partly intended to investigate and publicise nuclear dumping at a time when the Russian navy has pledged to scrap another 150 nuclear submarines, with two reactors each, and has given no indication of what will happen to the disused hardware. Another purpose is to ascertain Russian intentions over nuclear tests, as the October 27 expiry date for Moscow's self-imposed moratorium draws closer.

Aleksei Yablokov, the ecological adviser to Boris Yeltsin, has admitted to the existence

of an initially secret presidential decree, signed in February, that called for the renovation of the Novaya Zemlya underground testing site.

Greenpeace activists say that if their vessel is arrested — as happened to a ship they sent to the Arctic in 1990 — it would be a hint that Russia does plan to resume testing, just when America has finally agreed to a nine-month moratorium.

Mr Yablokov describes the nuclear dumps in the Kara Sea as "relatively safe" from leakage but believes that a danger "dozens of times" greater could be posed by the Komsomolets, a nuclear submarine which crashed to the floor of the Barents Sea in 1989. He also suggests that, if the Kara Sea is radioactive, the main culprit could be thousands of miles away: the vast atomic complex at Krasnoyarsk, where highly toxic liquid was dumped into the Yenisei river after cooling the

secret reactors, buried deep underground, that turned out plutonium to make bombs.

The production of plutonium, whose by-products infected the Yenisei as badly as or worse than the soil immediately around Chernobyl, officially stopped a few days ago, but the authorities are going ahead with plans to build a new nuclear waste reprocessing plant near by.

Efforts by Greenpeace to publicise the former Soviet Union's environmental nightmare coincide with a Russian report spelling out the damage it has wrought on public health. About 50 million Russians — one in three — live in cities where air pollution exceeds the acceptable norm by ten times or more, while another 60 million receive five times more air pollution than they should.

Apart from radioactivity, all of Russia's main rivers suffer bacterial or viral pollution that is tens or hundreds of times above the limit.

Ukraine risks clash over nuclear arms

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS THE heads of the old Soviet republics prepare for a summit on closer integration, Moscow defence chiefs say they are seriously concerned about Ukraine's claim to ever greater control of the nuclear weapons on its soil.

Air Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the commander-in-chief of the CIS, says he now wants the whole strategic arsenal to be switched from joint CIS jurisdiction to that of Russia alone as soon as possible.

Ukraine, one of the four commonwealth states where long-range nuclear rockets are located, said last week it wants "administrative control" of its share of the strategic arsenal and a veto on their use.

Konstantin Morozov, the Kiev defence minister, has said all the troops servicing and guarding nuclear weapons on Ukrainian soil would be sworn into the republican defence forces.

This would not alter the Ukraine's decision in principle to become a non-nuclear state. Analysing the reductions agreed by Presidents Bush and Yeltsin earlier this year, the International Institute for Strategic Studies based in London suggests in its annual *Military Balance* report that the Russian nuclear force in 10 years could consist of 500 mobile land-based SS25 warheads, 1,648 submarine-launched warheads and 820 air-launched warheads, carried by Bear and Blackjack bombers.

CIS STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES			
Delivery vehicle	Current	Future	
Inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBM)	6,612	500	
Sea launched ballistic missiles (SLBM)	2,804	1,648	
Air launched cruise missiles (ALCM)	855	820	
TOTAL 10,271 2,968			

Flight into eye of Sarajevo storm

FROM JOHN HOLLAND WITH THE US AIR FORCE

THE American C130E transport plane corked its way down towards Sarajevo. The city below was an October sunlit ghost city of burnt out red-roofed houses and crumbling mountainsides full of rain and white-hot Serbian artillery.

Captain Jed Scott put the squat dark camouflage plane into a series of steep dives. America's Operation Provide Promise was flying the eleventh to thirteenth aid missions since relief flights to the Bosnian capital were resumed on October 3.

As we dropped faster we could see an occasional puff of white smoke in the city centre — fire or artillery we couldn't tell — but the airport perimeter itself looked mercifully quiet.

As the plane tacked towards the unloading area the plane's rear load ramp swung down. Dozens of United Nations soldiers, mainly from African countries and Eastern Europe, moved in to unload our 14 tonnes of MREs — or "meals ready to eat" in US military parlance. That represented about 25,000 one-day rations.

"Twenty minutes is all we've got," our air force guide yelled to us as we jumped down to the tarmac. "We don't cut the engines and you don't wander. If things start getting bad you run for the plane and get out fast. No questions? Good."

Bosnian Serbs turn against last pockets of resistance

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SERBIAN forces followed up their capture of Bosanski Brod by pursuing their offensive yesterday against two other pockets of resistance in the area. According to Bosnian Radio buildings were ablaze in Gradacac, while the only other remaining enclave along the Croatian frontier, at Orasje, was also reported to be under attack.

The radio said that infantry supported by heavy artillery and tanks were attacking Gradacac, 75 miles north of Sarajevo. The town's military and civilian leaders reported 12 killed and 50 wounded after a series of air raids by Bosnian Serb jets. The reports

were impossible to confirm and came as Bosnian Serb leaders were promising to suspend their air attacks.

Gradacac, a town of 56,000 people, 60 per cent of whom are Muslim, is the most northerly town still under Bosnian control. The Serbs clearly want to drive the Bosnians and Croats out of both Gradacac and Orasje to secure complete control of the strategic northern corridor linking Serbia and Serb-held territories in Bosnia and Croatia.

The rapid fall of Bosanski Brod after months of siege and the lack of the customary triumphant reports on Belgrade television has led to

continued speculation in the Belgrade press that the city might have been given up by the Croats as a part of deal worked out between President Tudjman of Croatia and his Yugoslav counterpart.

As fighting continued in the north, Sarajevo was reported to be unusually quiet yesterday. In Belgrade, General Philippe Morillon, the French commander of the UN Protection Force for Bosnia-Herzegovina, said: "I am convinced that there is no chance of a military solution to the war and so there is no shame in admitting humanitarian aid."

General Morillon is planning the deployment of the expanded UNPROFOR force, which is to oversee humanitarian deliveries in the republic. "People are already suffering because of lack of electricity and water, not just food, and with the coming winter, perhaps 400,000 risk death unless UNPROFOR can help them," he said.

International humanitarian aid has so far made little impact, according to the Bosnian health ministry.

In Zagreb, the Croatian capital, parliament moved to strip the leaders of the extreme nationalist Croatian Party of Rights of their parliamentary immunity and the public prosecutor has demanded a ban on the party. The party, which controls a militia of ruthless reputation, stands accused of provoking "armed rebellion".

The move appears to have been well timed by the Croatian authorities. They will doubtless be overjoyed at the opportunity of offering up the neo-fascist party, a bitter opponent of President Tudjman, as a sacrificial lamb to the UN War Crimes Commission. The party, which believes in a greater Croatia, has long been suspected of being behind the worst atrocities committed by the Croatian side.

American medics to staff field hospital

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON'S decision to supply a field hospital for the humanitarian relief operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina could mean the deployment of about 300 US medical personnel to support the United Nations forces in the region. At least ten American officers are also likely to be sent to Bosnia to join the Nato headquarters that is to be set up west of Sarajevo.

Officials in Washington said the hospital and support personnel would probably be set up near Zagreb, in Croatia, and not in Bosnia. In the event of casualties, injured UN soldiers would be treated first by local medical units and then flown to the American field hospital if the facilities in Bosnia proved inadequate.

The involvement of the Americans, after months of staying on the sidelines, has brought a new dimension to the relief effort. They will

bring with them all the intelligence and communications apparatus which has been desperately lacking in the UN's mission.

The arrival of the Americans and the decision to lift a mobile Nato headquarters from Germany into Bosnia and place it under French command have set a precedent which could begin to resolve the divisive debate over the future management of European security. Major-General Philippe Morillon, the French commander who is to take charge of the 6,000-man expanded UN protection force in Bosnia, will be working from a headquarters run according to standard Nato operating procedures.

Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary general, told the *Bild* newspaper yesterday he could no longer rule out the use of alliance forces in the war in former Yugoslavia.

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PREMIUM XTTRA (New account available from 12.10.92)	9.66	7.20	9.45	9.45	9.45	9.45
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£50,000+	9.15	6.86	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
£25,000+	8.89	6.60	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.65
Monthly Income Option						
£100,000+	9.20	6.90	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
£50,000+	9.05	6.79	8.85	8.85	8.85	8.85
£25,000+	8.89	6.60	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.65
£10,000+	8.45	6.34	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25
90 DAY XTTRA						
£50,000+	8.50	6.38	6.48	7.60	7.74	7.74
£25,000+	8.10	6.26	6.08	6.17	7.30	7.44
£10,000+	7.60	5.70	5.78	7.10	7.23	7.23
£5,000+ (New tier)	7.00	5.25	5.32	6.80	6.92	6.92
Monthly Income Option						
£50,000+	8.15	6.11	6.28	7.30	7.55	7.55
£25,000+	7.75	5.81	5.97	7.15	7.39	7.39
£10,000+	7.30	5.48	5.62	6.80	7.02	7.02
£5,000+ (New tier)	6.75	5.06	5.18	6.58	6.78	6.78
£500+	6.45	4.84	4.95	6.35	6.54	6.54
INSTANT XTTRA PLUS						
£25,000+	7.80	5.85	5.95	7.55	7.75	7.75
£10,000+	7.30	5.48	5.62	6.95	7.15	7.15
£5,000+	6.80	5.10	5.20	6.50	6.70	6.70
£2,500+	6.60	4.95	5.05	6.35	6.55	6.55
£500+	6.25	4.69	4.80	6.00	6.20	6.20
(£50,000 tier removed)						
MAXIME						
£25,000+	5.50	5.44	4.21	—	—	—
£10,000+	1.50	3.84	2.25	1.50	1.51	1.51
£5,000+	1.50	1.51	1.13	1.14	—	—
£500+	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75	—	—
(£25,000 tier removed)						
CARD CASH						
£1,000+	3.00	3.02	2.25	3.00	3.02	3.02
£500+	1.50	1.51	1.13	1.50	1.51	1.51
£50+	1.00	1.00	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00
PAID-UP SHARE						
£50+	1.50	1.51	1.13	1.50	1.51	1.51
£50+	1.00	1.00	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00
DEPOSIT						
£50+	1.50	1.51	1.13	1.50	1.51	1.51
£50+	1.00	1.00	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00
CLOSED ISSUES						
Instant Xtra	6.40	—	—	6.00	—	—
£10,000+	5.90	—	—	5.70	—	—
£5,000+	5.65	—	—	5.50	—	—
£2,500+	5.15	—	—	5.00	—	—
Monthly Savings	2.85	2.87	2.15	2.85	2.87	2.87
7 Day Xtra	3.85	3.89	2.91	3.85	3.89	3.89
28 Day Xtra	4.15	4.19	3.13	4.15	4.19	4.19
Special Investment Account (1st issue)	4.25	4.30	3.20	4.25	4.30	4.30
Special Investment Account (2nd issue)	3.55	3.58	2.68	3.55	3.58	3.58
5 Year Term Share	4.25	4.30	3.22	4.25	4.30	4.30
Subscription Share	2.25	2.26	1.70	2.25	2.26	2.26
Matured Subscription Share	2.25	2.26	1.70	2.25	2.26	2.26

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HALIFAX

9th October 1992

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

With the presidential election less than a month away, the administration would

European governments badly need a deal to lift their recession-hit economies.

All snobs now, page 14

LOW SEALS. . . .

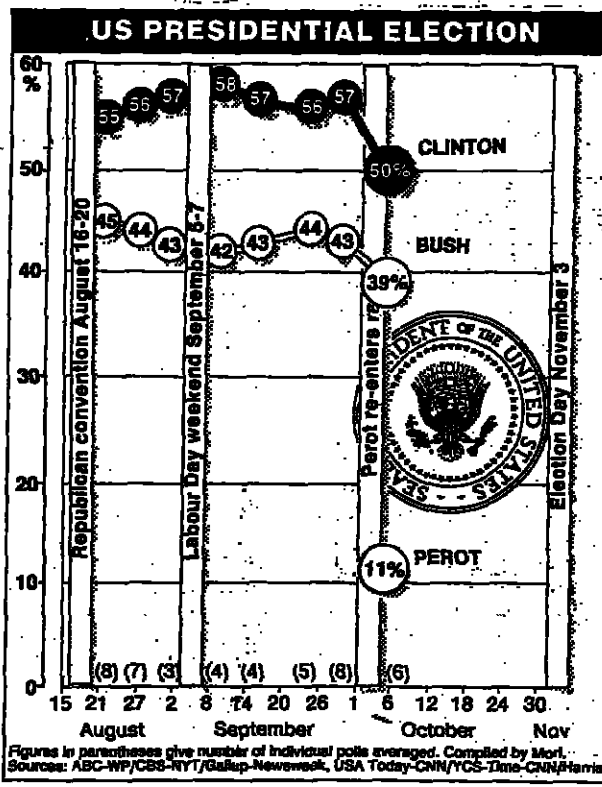
much closer.

Over the middle week in September both polling organisations asked their sam-

Robert Worcester is chairman of MORI and Visiting Professor of government at the London School of Economics and Political Science. His analyses are compiled with the assistance of American Enterprise Magazine.

**FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
ABOARD THE USS LASALLE**

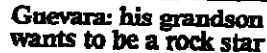
The conference, which will be attended by Tony Hogg, captain of HSM *Chatham*, one of three British warships on Gulf patrol, will deal also with the question of mutual refuelling, joint helicopter operations and shared navigation.



FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

One of Che's daughters remains committed to Fidel Castro's leadership of the revolution, and at least one other daughter and one brother of Che still live in Cuba. His father moved from Argentina to Cuba and died there three years ago.

Cuba marked the 25th anniversary of his death yesterday, as it always has done, on the day of his capture, assuming a man like Che would never have surrendered and must have died heroically in combat. But Guevara's small revolutionary movement never took hold among the Bolivian peasantry and by the time of his capture his guerrilla group was running short of



Mr Rodriguez later wrote in his CIA report: "If I had to go through a similar experience I would like to die with the same dignity as Che: he died for a cause, and that deserves respect."

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China steps up attack on governor

Patten presses ahead with democracy plans

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

CHRIS Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, yesterday pressed ahead with selling his plans to increase democracy in the colony while remaining within the parameters of earlier agreements with Peking. As he did so, the Chinese stepped up attacks on his proposals, saying they were inconsistent with records reached with Britain eight years ago.

In Peking, Wu Jianmin, the foreign ministry spokesman, said Mr Patten's proposed changes amounted to "major political changes" that would obstruct the smooth transfer of sovereignty to China in 1997. Somewhat reassuringly, however, Mr Wu said China and Britain could resolve their differences "through consultations". Mr Patten will visit Peking for talks later this month, following the 14th congress of the Chinese Communist Party.

In Hong Kong, the pro-Peking newspaper *Tu Kung Pao* said Mr Patten's proposals could threaten the "through train" of existing institutions that would remain unchanged at the handover in 1997. Referring to plans for more public spending to improve Hong Kong's social environment, the newspaper noted: "Without China's support, the through train will not go through and the vast rose garden could be turned into ashes under the controversy stirred up by Patten."

Wen Wei Pao, another left-wing journal, attacked Mr Patten's alleged failure to honour precedent by discussing plans with senior Chinese officials before revealing them to the six million inhabitants of Hong Kong. But Mr Patten's proposals seemed to have been well received in Hong Kong in general, with many



Chinese and European residents noting that past low-keying to Peking had led only to further demands. "People are ready for a bit of outspokenness," said one political commentator. "The other way hasn't worked."

Hong Kong officials privately made clear that while Mr Patten was not looking for a war of words with China, he was not going to shy away from his reform proposals, under which local councils would be almost exclusively made up of directly elected members from 1994 and, in turn, form an electoral college which would vote in ten members of the Legislative Council.

The governor told a radio audience: "At some stage in the early part of next year I'm going to have to go to the Legislative Council with proposals which we will have to carry into law for, for example, 1994 district board elections and for 1995 Legislative Council elections."

Analysts said it would thus be Hong Kong's Legislative Council, not China, which would be making the final decisions on how Hong Kong would be governed up to 1997. "I'm very keen that we resolve these political issues sooner rather than later," said Mr Patten, who will attend several public meetings around the colony to explain his plans.

Mr Patten, responding to

Legislative Council questions, indicated the Hong Kong government might agree to finance what it could itself if no agreement on joint financing on the vexed question of a £13.5 billion airport was agreed with China. While both sides agreed on the need for a new airport, squabbling over the issue has been going on for months, with the Chinese allegedly using it to apply pressure against further democratic reform.

Martin Lee, the leader of the United Democrats, said one fundamental failing of the political package delivered by Mr Patten concerned the so-called Basic Law, Peking's post-1997 constitution under which it would govern the territory. "If the Basic Law is like the ten commandments, and no one can amend it, then what he has done was the maximum possible under these constraints," he said.

But the Basic Law was promulgated shortly after the 1989 Tiananmen shootings, "so of course you do not expect them to give democracy to the people of Hong Kong," he said. "Any constitution in the world is amendable, and even the Chinese constitution itself has been amended a few times. Why then does the governor feel constrained by the Basic Law?"



An Adelaide fashion compère looks on as a man yells at model Elie Macpherson, below, before killing himself

Fashion show ends in suicide

Adelaide: A man killed himself here minutes after disrupting a lingerie fashion show hosted by the Australian model Elie Macpherson yesterday.

The 22-year-old man, whose name has not been released, had been ejected by security guards after he climbed on to the stage at the show in a department store. Witnesses said that he had tried to shout a protest at Miss Macpherson. Australia's most successful photographic model, as she and six other models waved to 4,000 fans at the end of the show. His words were drowned by music and cheering, but witnesses close to the stage said later that the man had said the show was "pornographic". Soon after being escorted from the store, the man went to the seventh floor of a nearby building, smashed a window with a chair and jumped to his death.

Shows given by Miss Macpherson, who is based in New York, have caused an uproar in several Australian cities in the past week, attracting thousands of adoring fans, many of them teenage boys. Miss Macpherson's publicist, Patti Mostyn, said that the model was distressed by the man's death. "The poor guy had a problem and it's not fair to lay blame with any responsibility," Ms Mostyn said. (AP)



Marxist returns as Guyana president

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

CHEDDI Jagan, a former Marxist prime minister, was declared the winner in Guyana's general election after beating President Hoyte by a margin of 13 per cent. He is expected to be sworn in today. Foreign observers, headed by former American President Jimmy Carter, praised what they said was the first fair election in decades. The Independent Elections Commission announced that Mr Jagan, with 129,484 votes compared with 98,918 for President Hoyte, had won 54 per cent of the vote, against 41 per cent for his opponent.

Mr Jagan, 74, a leader of Guyana's East Indian majority who was prime minister from 1957-64, returns to power after 28 years in opposition. During that time the former British colony has seen economic decline and violence. The elections were marked by violent clashes in the streets. Two women were killed in the unrest.

During the campaign Mr Jagan attempted to allay fears by businessmen that he would not reverse Guyana's free market reforms. He said that with the collapse of the Cold War ideology no longer mattered. He hinted that he would continue the privatisation of the country's biggest mineral and energy industries.

Farce and outrage take centre stage in South Africa

Clumsy moves by the main players have deepened divisions, writes Michael Hamlyn from Johannesburg

As the temperature rises with the abrupt onset of spring in the southern hemisphere, the flavour of South African politics has quickly turned sour. Two weeks ago President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, managed to agree to talk to each other, but since then relations between the two most significant players in the transition to a multiracial democracy appear to be disintegrating again.

Since the summit meeting at the World Trade Centre on the outskirts of Johannesburg four significant things have happened. First, the ANC has refused to call off its programme of mass action. Second, Mr de Klerk has lectured the ANC in what newspapers have described as an offensively patronising tone, telling them to stop their nonsense. Third, Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, chief minister of KwaZulu and president of the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom party, who should ordinarily be de Klerk's most important ally, has declared himself slightly by the summit, and has gathered into a threatening embrace the leaders of other black homelands and the right-wing racists of the Conservative party and their offspring, the Afrikaner Volksunie.

And fourth, Mr Mandela has gone abroad for another of his glad-handing foreign trips. When the moderates in the ANC have needed to consolidate their position within the organisation, he has been photographed on the Great Wall of China, like any other tourist.

Less significant, but a contribution to the ill-feeling, has been the combination of farce and outrage over the release of "political" prisoners. As various mass murderers came grinning into the sunshine, black commentators have complained that the release of Barend Strydom, the "White Wolf" killer who killed seven non-whites in the heart of Pretoria, was not provided for in the agreement that led to the summit, and that he is unrepentant about his crime.

Whites have not been slow to seize on the release of Lucky Malaza, a bank robber and police-killer, who cheerfully admits that politics played no part in his crime.



Buthe has built a threatening alliance

Simple incompetence at the Department of Correctional Services, as the prison administration is now known, is blamed. The department has invited him to return, he has declined. Adrian Vlok, the prisons minister, has announced that more non-political prisoners are to be released to ease overcrowding in jails. Cartoonists and satirists are enjoying this.

Meanwhile the ANC has attacked the Democratic Party for having the temerity to criticise Cyril Ramaphosa, their secretary general, and the Pan Africanist Congress who have been trying to mediate between Inkatha and themselves. In toughly worded statements yesterday they lambasted Zach de Beer, the Democratic party leader, and declared that the ANC "does not need PAC or any other mediation".

Chief Buthe has been bitterly criticised in the black press for embracing the rightwingers. But his motives are not hard to understand. If he can attract to his support white voters in Natal, and if he can gather up all the Zulu votes, then he will create a federal base which will make him a force to be reckoned with on the national scene, long into the future.

He has already been compared with the intransigent Jonas Savimbi in nearby Angola, who is refusing to accept the evidence of the ballot box. He is also in danger of creating a vast division in South African society between the Zulus and the rest, a division similar to that which has plagued almost all black-governed states north of here.

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Why pay pots for paint?

We're all snobs now

Bryan Appleyard on America's liberal élitism

How awful can the American election get? Confronted by an aphasic ex-spook, a fat saxophone player with a haircut and a petulant Texan with the voice of Kermit the Frog, the electorate can hardly be blamed if it does what it usually does — stays at home in depressing large numbers. Abstaining, however, is an affront to the constitution. This week the American television stations have been running conscience-jogging slots to persuade people to register to vote. MTV, the gormless pop video channel, is running a collage of rock stars, some standing by swimming pools, all encouraging the fans to get out and vote. Spike Lee, the black film director, implies that not voting is an affront to the long list of great civil rights activists, but forgets to mention that there is no candidate for whom anybody on that list would dream of voting.

Ross Perot's line, that nobody else is confronting the issues, would be the most interesting were it not for the fact that he refuses coherently to confront them himself. The Bush and Clinton television campaigns simply swap abuse and counter-abuse with the one nauseating exception of a long, soft-focus image of Governor Clinton talking on the telephone. The Bush side's best recent shot was a straight lift from this year's Tory campaign. Rugged, hardworking types were shown looking depressed by the sums added to their tax bills by a Clinton victory. Unfortunately the Democrats are neither lumbered with John Smith nor with the relative simplicity of the British tax system, so the advertisement was simply swatted aside by an entirely effective denial commercial the next day.

The one serious issue, the economy, is hopelessly lost in this mess. But there is another issue which has probably never surfaced with quite such intensity in an American election. That issue is class. Dan Quayle crystallised the point when he spoke resolutely of a "cultural elite". By that he meant roughly what we used to call the chattering classes: liberal, media types possessed of a certain contempt for the attitudes of non-liberal, non-media types. In America the idea has more force than in Britain because of the power of Hollywood (in both films and television) which, to Mr Quayle, was the spiritual home, propaganda tool and economic base of the élites.

The Quayle theory is that these élites undermine traditional values with the uniformly liberal message from the popular entertainment industry. He has been lampooned for this and Bill Clinton has said he always wanted to be in "the cultural elite that others condemn". But there are greater intellects than Mr Quayle's behind the idea.

Michael Novak, the right-wing, Catholic philosopher, pointed out to me that 100 million Americans go to church every week, but you never see anybody go to church in all the hundreds of hours of weekly soap operas. Aspects of common American life unpalatable to the cultural élites are being silently filtered out. The great defence of any contentious issue that arises in these soaps is always that they mirror the real world. If that mirror is distorted by liberal propaganda, people will be persuaded that society is more liberal than it really is and their conservative instincts will be quietly suppressed in the name of conformity.

Since it involves the right accusing the left of being snobs, this is a curious form of the class issue. But clearly the tactical point from the Republican side is that a class war may distract attention from their own failings by whipping up redneck prejudice. The deeper point, however, is that this new internal division is a symptom of the same fundamental unease that has made the election campaign so vacuous. That unease arises from the sense that there is nothing to be said and nothing that can be said. The budget deficit seems too huge, the inner cities too violent, there are too many drugs and the Japanese are too good at making cars. And now there is not even an external enemy to make the effort of national cohesion worthwhile.

Class is an introspective issue, a way of blaming each other, rather than an answer. The right's diagnosis may be correct: it certainly feels true when you have been over-exposed to the narrow liberalism of *The New York Times*. The problem is that, in the midst of this campaign, it sounds less like the basis for a cure than the result of a post-mortem.

Nicholas Ridley argues that the Chancellor made the best of a bad job in his Brighton speech yesterday

Beware Lamont's rivals

Norman Lamont made the best he could of his speech at yesterday's Conservative party conference given that he had to address not two, but three, audiences.

The first audience consisted of those who were sitting in the conference hall — the Tory party at worship. The second audience consisted of the city and the markets, who were looking for a credible economic policy. The third consisted of the hard men in the cabinet: John Major, Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine in particular.

These are the people who seem to put Europe before Britain. They are watching the Chancellor like hawks to be sure he does not frustrate them in their aim of putting the pound back in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) as soon as possible. Both Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine, in recent weeks, have set themselves up as shadow Chancellors, faithful acolytes of the Brussels Commission, frequently breathing down the Chancellor's neck in the media to make sure he does not backslide on eventually rejoining the ERM. John Major

shares their view, as he clings to his personal commitment to the ERM and the Maastricht treaty. It is a mistake to underestimate the convictions of these three.

It was not an easy speech for the Chancellor. But he holds the initiative: it is he who now says what the policy is, and he who will bring it into effect. He made a small start yesterday. He had to excuse the past, which is not easy without making Mr Major eat his hat. Indeed he failed to conceal his relief at his new found freedom. A further burst of song emerged from the bath. It was good to be able to do "what is in the interests of this country" he said. The audience cheered loudest when he said "now the pound is floating again". The new exchange rate gave Britain's businesses a great opportunity: now they could capture new markets. The Thatcherite reforms of the 1980s had put Britain in a position

where we could resume economic growth, together with our new found economic freedom. He is quite right. The only thing is why didn't they all see this long before Black Wednesday? I judge he looked as happy as it was safe to be.

He made welcome noises about cutting public spending. We must all hope he can deliver.

The new economic policy itself, spelt out in a paper to the Treasury select committee, is not too bad. The targeting of inflation figures is irrelevant. It is a piece of public relations which has little or no economic effect. What is important is that we are back to watching a number of indicators, including broad and narrow money supply, house prices and the exchange rate.

The error here is to include the exchange rate. The Bundesbank hardly watches the German exchange rate at all; it concentrates on the money supply. We should

do the same. But the Chancellor has at least put himself in a position where he can be guided by asset prices and broad money (M4) which are the key indicators. He is in a position to do the right things.

So far so good. But the crucial element was missing yesterday. What will his interest-rate policy be? We are told that bearing inflation remains the key objective. Nobody would quarrel with that. But he should now be reducing interest rates quite sharply, by as much as 3 per cent, in order to bring about recovery.

Perhaps he was right not to announce a cut in interest rates in a speech to the Conservative party conference, but the markets were disappointed by its absence and fell back into lethargy. But if he could not announce it yesterday, he must do so soon. Delay and uncertainty are causing further damage to the economy. We are still at a halfway

house stage, between high interest rates in order to support the pound in the ERM, and the low ones the domestic economy needs if it is to revive. Only by cutting them can he realise his ambitions to put Britain's interests first and rout his enemies in the Cabinet. Time is not on his side.

His Treasury advisers, the prime minister and the Bank of England, will all be counselling caution, because they believe that cutting interest rates will lead to renewed inflation. I do not believe they are right. This is in part because they will go on measuring inflation by the figure for the rise in prices over the last year, whereas what matters is the current and future rate of inflation.

I have little doubt that inflation is killed, maybe over-killed. On the basis of zero inflation the real rate of interest is still 9 per cent. The growth of the money

supply is definitely inadequate at present to sustain either growth or price rises. All the evidence points to a relaxation of the monetary squeeze resulting in lower prices rather than refuelling inflation.

Nor does the fall in the exchange rate contribute to renewed inflation, contrary to the contemporary wisdom. All that is necessary at a time of devaluation is to control the money supply, and that is currently being overdone.

So we are not yet clear which economic policy the Chancellor is going to follow. We do know he has now got in place most of the right criteria for monitoring the economy. But we do not know whether he has really got the political clout, the determination, and the wisdom to cut interest rates quickly and sharply. On this shall he be judged. We should back him and encourage him, especially when we look at those who would like to have his job.

Lord Ridley was Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury 1959-92.

Why Thatcherism still matters

With Mrs Thatcher back in the spotlight, Shirley Robin Letwin examines her intellectual legacy

Lady Thatcher's latest dramatic intervention in the Maastricht debate reminds us of something more profound than her opposition to the treaty. It is summed up in her earlier remarks on dropping out of the ERM: "The dire warnings of what will happen when this straitjacket is removed will quickly prove false." She is, as she did all through the Eighties, rejecting the belief that we can avoid chaos only by imposing a straitjacket, and reminding us, as Montesquieu and others had remarked in the past, that Britain is "a country which has little resemblance to the rest of Europe".

The solution to this mystery can explain why Thatcherism has been so hard to identify and why today the British attitude to European integration continues to differ from that of the Continent. Thatcherism was addressed to halting the decline of Britain. Its diagnosis of the reasons for the decline was unprecedented. Thatcherites believed that Britain was suffering from a decadence due to the loss of what may be called the "vigorous virtues": a once dynamic people had learnt to take dependency for granted, to wait on hand-outs from the state to support their industries, educate their children, secure their future. The British had ceased to be self-sufficient, courageous, adventurous, independent-minded and robust. In short, unlike any other modern political project, Thatcherism was shaped by a view about the character of individuals which was a peculiar British individualism.

The means that Thatcherism adopted were as unusual as its objective because such an individualism can neither be taught out of a textbook nor imposed by fiat but must be communicated by example in an atmosphere of love and trust. Therefore, in order to foster the vigorous virtues, Thatcherism sought to revive the family and to restore confidence in the rectitude of passing on the morality of one generation to the next, for the

government cannot be expected to do something about the character of individuals and families in a modern liberal state. Hence Thatcherites abandoned the automatic assumption that all problems can be resolved only by government. Instead of engaging in partnerships with entrenched interest groups, the Thatcher government saw them as cosy cartels, breeding grounds of defeatism, and usurpers of the government's constitutional role.

Ultimately, Thatcherism was driven by a vision of Britain as a land where individuals distinguished by the vigorous virtues are given room to flourish by a government making rules not strategies and plans. Britain would then be a vibrant island power — energetic, prosperous, respected and in full command of itself. The connection between this vision of Britain and the Thatcherite reluctance to board the Delors train is not a little Englandism or nationalism but something more profound and elusive, which lies at the heart of British individualism. It is a distinctive conception of order which has dominated in Britain and been alien to the Continent.

The continental view equates order with fixity and unity, and regards change and diversity as invitations to chaos which must be repressed if civilisation is to survive. Human life is consequently seen as an arena of inescapable struggle. Individualism is identified with conflict. And order, it is assumed, can be achieved only by reducing multiplicity to unity and variety to uniformity. A market economy, whether admired or not, is taken to be a struggle for survival in which the strong triumph and the weak perish. As the aim of civilisation is the reduction of chaos to order, civilisation is taken to be a march toward ever greater uniformity and unification. Given this way of thinking, the melting of separate nations into one great European state is as inevitable as it is desirable.

There are no such inevitabilities in the British outlook, that is why Thatcherism could defy "the forces of history" and do the impossible — privatise nationalised industries, for example. Nor is there any need to stifle change and diversity. In the British view, the object of a government is to devise conditions that allow change and diversity to thrive in peace. Thus in Britain freedom and order have been regarded as complementary, not as antithetical, and a broad tolerance for eccentricity has flourished alongside a sturdy tradition of constitutional government and civility. A market economy is understood neither as a free-for-all nor as a conflict in which one man's gain must entail another's loss, but as an ingenious form of co-operation

in which individuals constantly accommodate their choices to those of their fellows to their mutual benefit.

What ultimately divides the two views of order is an attitude to individuality. In the continental picture, individualists are seen as egoistic, restless and disruptive, and vigour is feared as the source of aggression. In the British outlook, individuality is the product of each person's capacity to make himself what he wishes to be; the more vigorous he is, the greater will be his capacity to accommodate to others. Nothing is inevitable because new choices are always being made. Attempts to repress choice and change by great plans and strategies for unification are futile and bound to end in the kind of disaster that we see now in Eastern Europe. For order in human life rests on constant, flexible accommodation to ceaseless change, not straitjackets. Of course businessmen and others would like to be secured from all risk and uncertainty. But such attempts are bound to be short-lived and harmful to all in the long run.

Towards the end of the last century, this way of thinking became displaced in Britain by its rival, imported from the Continent. Thatcherism revived it. In doing so, Thatcherism unwittingly appealed to an attitude that many Britons themselves consciously cherished and welcomed when it was brought back to life.

Not only does the British variety of individualism underlie the project to revive the vigorous virtues, it also explains why Thatcherites are both more enthusiastic than their continental neighbours about creating a free market in Europe, and regard the drive for a European state as a project that they can choose to reject without exposing Britain to chaos.

Shirley Robin Letwin's book, *The Anatomy of Thatcherism*, is published this week by Fontana (£6.95).



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

We stand on the threshold of National Will Week. Those of you who may have heard the plane state going down by the stern and, peering through the economic fog, identified her from that stern as *The Flying Dutchman*, out of Maastricht (or very nearly) and into hock, will doubtless greet my announcement by crying, "And about bloody time, too. If ever we needed a National Will week it is now, let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties and so bear ourselves that despite the fact that the British Empire and its Commonwealth did not last five minutes, men will still say: this was their finest hour!"

But you cry, I'm afraid, in vain. National Will Week, which kicks off on Monday, is not about hanging out the washing on the Bundesbank line or digging for victory, it is not about committing ourselves to working harder to earn more money, it is about giving away such money we already have to those who haven't earned it at all. National Will Week is, in short, about the nation's wills. It has been cooked up by the Law Society, who have discovered that only 31 per cent of us have made wills and realised to their horror that unless something is done about it, 69 per cent of us will therefore slip into the ground without leaving anything to our lawyers. Thus, being of sound mind, the Law Society has come up with a jaunty little champion called Mr

Will Power, cloned hundreds of whom you will next week find haunting the country's streets and supermarkets in glamorous turquoise body-stockings and cloaks, buttonholing the interstate in the hope of persuading them to make sensible provisions, particularly for lawyers.

I am not at all sure about this. Poised at the Waitrose shelving and deep in thought as to whether to select tuna in brine against tuna in vegetable oil, I cannot believe that I should be in a suitable frame of mind to cope with a caped and tighted Sir David Napley suddenly leaping out at me from behind a pyramid of tinned catmeat and waving a will-form. Indeed many of a less robust constitution than I could well find themselves dropping lifeless at Sir David's feet, which might take some explaining away when he gets back to his practice: if he cannot come up with a satisfactory excuse as to why he did not loosen the customer's clothing, blow into his lungs, jump up and down on his chest, and generally make every attempt to resuscitate him for long enough to put his signature to a length of vellum, the hapless lawyer could easily find himself spending the rest of his days in the conveyancing department, until it was time for him to put his affairs in order and collect his engraved carriage clock.

Nor will this massive campaign be left to the poor bloody infantry. According to a fat pack of highly unsettling bumf sent to me by the Law Society, solicitors

are also being enjoined to form a cavalry division by deploying Will Buses, "suitably decorated" and manned by solicitors offering £10 discount vouchers on all wills commissioned. These will not only trundle the by-ways, presumably on the lookout for incompetent drivers, jaywalkers, elderly lollipop-men, and anyone else whose days have been actuarially assessed as being more numbered than most, but also "park strategically". The halts are not specified, but since the preceding paragraph urges lawyers to stick promotional fly-posters outside such places as Age Concern offices, doctors' surgeries and health centres, we may make a rough guess at the targeting. Next week, it may not be much fun for anyone feeling a bit of colour and creeping off to the chemist clutching his new prescription, only to find his way blocked by time's winged chariot packed to the gunwales with shrieking turquoise lawyers waving tender discounts at him.

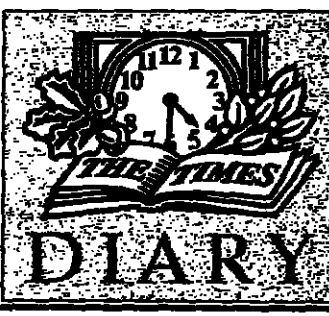
And God alone knows why the Law Society deemed it sensible to inform me not only that a will was once legally drawn up providing for "a cats' home where inmates were to listen to accordion music for an hour a day," but also that "George Bernard Shaw left a considerable portion of his estate for the purpose of replacing the standard English alphabet." If I were charging people for allowing them to throw the rest of their money down the drain, I think I'd want to keep it under my hat.

Knockout party, Jeffrey

LORD Tebbit got himself into a fresh scrap over Europe at the first of Lord Archer's famous "champagne and shepherd's pie" parties in Brighton on Wednesday night. The man they once called the Chingford Skinhead but who is now known as the Maastricht Mauler, was, of course, in the sceptics' corner. In the pro-Maastricht corner was Kenneth Clarke, probably the cabinet's most formidable heavyweight Euro-bruiser. Archer was cast as the unsuspecting referee. Richard Ryder, the chief whip, was the ringside doctor, who, after half a dozen rounds, threw in the towel before too much blood was spilled.

The confrontation took place in Archer's suite at the Grand Hotel in the early hours of Thursday morning. As the decibel level rose, other party guests abandoned their own conversations to watch. Round one: Clarke told Tebbit that his conference speech had been "a declaration of war". Round two: Tebbit hit back by telling his opponent to "call off your rat pack and stop them saying things which are not true." Several of Lord Archer's guests promptly struck wagers on the likely winner. The bout swung back and forth for 15 gruelling minutes. All the while the prime minister was diplomatically dosed away in the bathroom talking to Sir David English.

Eventually Ryder intervened, putting his hand on Clarke's shoulder and leading him away. Afterwards spectators could not decide who had won on points. Tebbit himself claimed a moral victory. Mary Archer thought that Tebbit was winning "until he got round to repeating the same argument the



third time". Another observer thought Tebbit had probably had enough. "I think he was running out of wind and the Young Pretender would have gone on to win by a knockout." Archer, as mine host, was diplomatic. "It was a breathtaking draw between two great heavyweights slugging it out. It never occurred to me to break it up and spoil the fun. It was the best cabaret we have ever had."

Archer was holding another party last night, to which both men were invited. Clarke, at least, was planning to turn up. "Great party, Jeffrey," he told his host at breakfast yesterday. "Who have you lined up for me tonight? I feel I can go 10 rounds with anyone after surviving in the ring with Norman."

To Major's obvious irritation, Gallie admitted that if he had been asked he would have spoken

against the treaty. Gallie went on to say he hoped the prime minister would leave the Birmingham summit next week with concessions sufficient enough to allow the rebels to support the government in the division lobbies. "I hope that is the case. Otherwise, enjoy the election," Major replied — a clear warning to a man sitting on a tiny majority of 85.

Should it all get too much for Norman Lamont in Brighton, he will be welcomed with open arms at an alternative party political conference in his own constituency. The Rainbow Connection Conference Party takes place in Kingston

We all live in a yellow submarine off Brighton.



today to coincide with John Lennon's 52nd birthday. The conference slogan is the "nemeses of nonsense", a title that might equally find something of an echo down on the south coast.

Bag lady

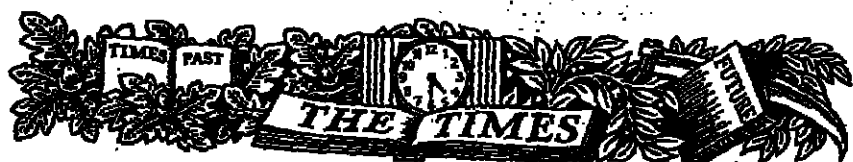
WHAT Baroness Thatcher carries in her handbag has long been a source of debate. Yesterday in Brighton it contained if not a full-blown speech, certainly a "few

thoughts" for use if the former prime minister had been moved to speak. Close friends had advised her not to go on to the platform unprepared, "just in case". She took the hint and had prepared a few words in the event of the stage managers losing control and the conference refusing to sit down until she had spoken.

One of Lady Thatcher's closest political allies said yesterday: "If she had spoken it was important to get it absolutely right. Not one word could have been misinterpreted." Such uncharacteristic caution also led Lady Thatcher to pull out of a secret supper on the eve of her appearance in Brighton. She had planned a meal with a handful of her closest supporters such as Gerald Howarth, who was her parliamentary private secretary, and Simon Heffer, deputy editor of *The Spectator*. In the end it was cancelled. "She thought that people might think we were meeting to conspire against the leadership," said one of those who had been invited. Now why would anyone think that?

One of the first to congratulate Derek Walcott on winning the Nobel Prize was the writer's close friend Paul Simon. Walcott has dedicated some of his work to the American songwriter. In return Simon rarely misses a Walcott poetry reading. Simon was present when Walcott appeared at Stratford upon Avon with Ted Hughes and Seamus Heaney in July for a poetry evening. Despite the stature of the poets present, it was Simon who was pursued by the autograph-hunters, which led to a discussion on the nature of fame. "The problem is that people talk about you as if you are not there," said Simon. Walcott may be about to discover the syndrome at first hand.

John 10:1-50



ON THE WAY OUT

Speaker after speaker at yesterday's Tory conference economic debate described the devastation wrought by the prolonged recession of the past few years. They appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to restore business and consumer confidence by cutting interest rates. When Norman Lamont rose to speak, he could have been talking about a different world.

In only one paragraph did he acknowledge the hardship the recession has caused. The rest of the speech was devoted either to self-justification or to his intention to slay a dragon that already lies near-lifeless at his feet. In Mr Lamont's world, the monster is inflation; in everybody else's, it is recession and the concomitant suffering in lost jobs, lost homes, rising debts and bankrupt businesses.

When Mr Lamont spoke at the International Monetary Fund conference soon after the pound's devaluation, he said his objective was to achieve sustained non-inflationary growth. For a brief period, he looked as if he would try to do at least something to end the recession. Now he has been overruled, presumably by his Prime Minister. Any attempt to initiate a recovery has been abandoned in Mr Major's obsession with reducing inflation at any cost.

For the second time, Mr Lamont is being asked to pursue an economic policy in which he does not appear to believe. His speech lacked personal conviction; his heart was not in it. The clichés of his peroration died on his lips as the representatives listened in embarrassed silence.

The economy is mired in the deepest depression for sixty years. Now the Chancellor intends to cut public spending savagely without taking any counterbalancing measures to stimulate growth. Nothing could be better designed to turn recession into slump. Inflation may fall from 3.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent, but for many companies the price level will be irrelevant; they will

have ceased trading altogether. The gain in competitiveness will be minimal; the cost to people's lives and to the health of the economy will be immense.

Mr Major says it would be irresponsible to risk inflation. What could be more irresponsible than this new policy, which risks permanent damage to the productive base of the British economy? Restraining public investment will dampen what little demand is left, and with no interest-rate cuts, the private sector too will remain paralysed.

Some ministers are claiming that German rates will start to fall over the next few months, and that this will leave room for British rates to drop too. To cut domestic rates now, they say, would be too risky for the pound. So Britain is to creep into the exchange-rate mechanism through the back door: sterling may not have to be stable against the mark, but British policy will still wait upon the Bundesbank.

This is bad judgment. If dealers think British interest rates are likely to fall gradually but indefinitely over the next year, they will continue to sell sterling until a floor seems to have been reached. If, instead, Mr Lamont were to cut rates dramatically in one go, and then announce that they would fall no further for the foreseeable future, the pound would rally after the initial shock, because dealers would realise that recovery was under way.

Such little argument as remained earlier this week for keeping Mr Lamont in office has now gone. He has not used his tattered authority to produce a new policy. He is still talking of re-entering the exchange-rate mechanism — though more openly to the Treasury select committee than to the conference. On September 16 he lost the credibility of the markets; yesterday he lost the confidence of many previously hopeful party loyalists. Mr Lamont may still have the confidence of his prime minister, but so did David Mellor until his time finally came.

STOP HOUNDING GORBACHEV

Confiscating former President Gorbachev's foundation and bussing in police to seal the building is a piece of spiteful pettiness unworthy of President Yeltsin. The decree evicting the former Soviet leader was issued within hours of his stinging newspaper attack on Mr Yeltsin, and suggests a display of temper by a man unable to take criticism. This latest episode follows a similar move earlier this year when Mr Gorbachev's limousine was withdrawn after he attacked the government's economic reforms. Such actions are a demeaning humiliation for the man who first loosened the chains of communism; they suggest a capricious disregard for law and property rights reminiscent of the boorish communist attempts to silence critics.

Mr Gorbachev is by no means above reproach. The order is linked to his refusal to testify to the constitutional court which is now investigating the murky dealings of the communist party. He believes that the attempt to call him will be used to discredit him, and has even likened it to the assassination of Kirov in 1934, used by Stalin to launch a purge of his political opponents. Clearly the hearing is intensely political; clearly Mr Gorbachev will be embarrassed by revelations of what the party used to do. But his insistence that he is answerable only to the tribunal of history smacks of arrogance. His depiction of himself as the first post-Soviet "refusenik" mocks the more desperate plight of many thousands of refuseniks who were preventing from emigrating during his rule.

Like the dissidents of old, Mr Gorbachev has decided to ignore mounting state pressure and speak out. But although the West will have sympathy for a giant statesman of this century, he cannot quite be seen in the same light as a Sakharov. The constitutional court, democratically empowered, has the right to compel his

testimony; he is not above the law, even though it still functions erratically in Russia.

The dispute however is about more than whether Mr Gorbachev will testify. Beneath it lies the ousted leader's burning resentment of his successor, and Mr Yeltsin's intense vulnerability to criticism by his predecessor — a phenomenon not unknown in political life in Britain. Mr Yeltsin is attempting to push forward with reform against increasingly hostile interests: the old guard, the conservatives in parliament, factory managers, nationalists, bureaucrats and the mass of ordinary people despairing of the economic chaos around them. His government has survived but he has had to rule more and more by decree.

Criticism by Mr Gorbachev will not rally a disillusioned people around the deeply unpopular former leader. But it comes on the eve of an important summit today in Bishkek, the capital of Kirghizia, of the tottering Commonwealth of Independent States. Some of the points Mr Gorbachev made last year are beginning to be voiced by others: that the break-up of the Soviet Union was too swift; that a unified economic space must be preserved and that the full-blooded rush to independence has led only to a myriad of border disputes and fighting all along the fringes of the old empire.

Mr Yeltsin is already under pressure to intervene to protect Russians stranded beyond their borders. Without support at home, moderation in resolving differences with Georgia, the Baltic republics and Moldavia will be difficult. To pick a quarrel with Mr Gorbachev is an absurd distraction from the real priorities. Mr Yeltsin would be wise to return the Gorbachev foundation, lift the ban on travel and let the constitutional court work out its own arrangements for testimony by Mr Gorbachev. Harassing a former leader is no way to establish democracy in Russia.

CROWN OF DYNAMITE

Giving prizes for literature is, in its essence, an act as strange as awarding professorial chairs to the winners of a sack-race. There are no winners among writers. There are no losers. There are artists of varying skills who make private experience public and universal, and who, just occasionally, transcend the mundane. That may be why there are so many literary prizes. The materialist world wants to get grips on and tie down and label this unworlly literary magic, which inevitably eludes it.

The Nobel Prize for Literature is the most politically correct and pompous of all of them. It awards its vast largesse of £590,000 a year to a winner carefully selected from countries and continents and races, with an eye on topical concerns and Buggins's swings and roundabouts: though one half the human race may note with a sigh that of the 89 winners so far, only a handful have been women, one of whom was no less a *literata* than Pearl S. Buck. The members of the Swedish Academy who pick the winners are shellbacked place-holders who hang on to their places and their prejudices until death. Even they, though no doubt highly literary Swedes, cannot read all of the world's 5,000 or so current languages.

This year it was rumoured to be an Asian writer's turn. There has been only one so far, Yasunari Kawabata of Japan in 1968. As usual with such an in-and-out and unimportant event as the Nobel, the betting was wrong, and the prize has gone to Derek Walcott of Trinidad.

By Nobel criteria, he has a number of virtues. He has both African and European blood in his veins. Both his grandmothers were slaves. He is the first West Indian to

win the Nobel, and a poet who has written a Homeric work on Caribbean culture. As the Swedish Academy citation remarked in their usual higher waffle: "For a poetic oeuvre of great luminosity, sustained by a historical vision, the outcome of a multicultural commitment."

Walcott is much better than that sounds. He started life as a journalist, and has a taste for schoolboy puns and other jokes. His latest major work is *Omeros*, a vast narrative epic of some 2,500 stanzas of rhyming hexameters transposing Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* to a West Indian fishing village. Such a wild venture cannot be all bad. He deserves the Nobel as much as anyone.

When William Golding received the prize he declared: "It really means nothing in this country whatsoever — but then, being a writer here means nothing either." When Jean-Paul Sartre turned it down, he said: "A writer must refuse to allow himself to be transformed into an institution." Years, being told over the telephone he had won, said: "Stop babbling, man! How much?"

On hearing the news yesterday, Derek Walcott said: "Why me?" Later he found the correct Nobelian platitude, and declared: "The principal thing is that West Indian literature has been recognised internationally, and that's good." So it is. And wherever it falls, and however absurd by definition is its treatment of literature as a horse-race, it must be a good thing that once a year the bounty of the inventor of dynamite should go to the quieter but equally explosive agent of the written word. Nobel is an honour to literature, in a world that rates literature low.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Industry, media comment and economic guesswork

From the Deputy Director-General of the CBI

Sir, Getting the support of Bernard Levin to the cause of British manufacturing is encouraging ("The unmaking of the British", October 5) but it worries us if he only uses *The Sun* as his source of manufacturing information.

We may have a horrible recession, and it is disappointing that many sectors of British industry have gone into decline, but media misery of an unbalanced nature doesn't help anyone.

British manufacturing output last year was up 22 per cent on ten years ago, the UK has 43 companies in the *Fortune* 500, ahead of all except the USA and Japan, and UK productivity in the 1980s increased faster than all major industrial nations except Japan. In fact, in the 1980s we stabilised our share of world trade for the first time for a century, and exported 60 per cent more per head than Japan.

However, the CBI's national manufacturing council believes that we need to do a lot better. At the CBI's national conference in November we will launch a report calling for a new partnership for action to make British manufacturing world-class. This will involve industry itself, government and the City. Media support, including Bernard Levin's, will also be welcomed.

Yours sincerely,
MARK RADCLIFFE,
Deputy Director-General,
Confederation of British Industry,
Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street, WC1.

From Mr Andrew McIntyre

Sir, My new, award-winning business venture — we design, manufacture and sell small greenhouses — is on the brink of collapse, victim not just of the recession but of the British banking system. The bank with which I deal (one of the top five) operates on a basis of high charges, short-termism and inflexibility. There is no one on the front line with first-hand industrial experience, or even an empathy with what we are trying to achieve.

If I go, Britain will lose another innovative product. I and my financial backers will lose £170,000, my family home will go, the local community will lose six more jobs. And it will cost my bank nothing.

Too many manufacturers are hiding under the lathe when the bank manager's shadow appears at the door. But I believe the battle must be carried to the banks; they must be made to share some of the pain that they too readily inflict on their clients.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW MCINTYRE,
Backwoodsman Horticultural
Products,
Barcalaine, Oban, Argyll.

From Mr T. D. J. Bristow

Sir, Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI ("What industry needs",

October 5), wonders about which way the government must now go in terms of setting a new economic agenda. Why? I thought we had one. All that has changed is that we now do not have a fixed exchange rate.

Regardless of the arguments about rejoining the ERM, industry must get on and grab the business that's out there with zeal and determination, confident that industry is now no longer constrained by artificial restrictions on its ability to take advantage of new opportunities.

As a small businessman and committed European involved in the manufacture of bricks, I welcome the release of dormant economic tools to boost that confidence we so desperately need in the market place.

We need relative freedom to pursue our profitable goals, we need the government to help not hinder our progress and we need a cut in relative interest rates to bolster that confidence. We do not need debate by industrialists about joining the ERM — that will happen if the conditions are right and the will is there.

Yours sincerely,
T. BRISTOW,
The York Handmade Brick Co. Ltd.,
Forest Lane,
Aine, North Yorkshire,
October 5.

From Mr A. J. Lucking

Sir, Your leader of October 3, "A rail too far", perhaps underestimates the damage caused by our present tax system, which imposes heavy burdens on manufacturing industry. I believe that Chancellor Lawson's tax changes are one reason why our capital stock is 17 years old on average, versus nine years in Germany and seven in Japan.

The present system, with 100 per cent relief only for repairs, encourages "make do and mend" rather than plant renewal. Overall, the UK corporation tax rate is 4.1 per cent of gross domestic product, against 2 per cent in Germany, 2.4 per cent in France, and 2 per cent in the USA.

Since the uniform business rate was introduced, some companies in the South East have found themselves paying over three times as much yet as far as one can determine in my

immature island, that is where a disproportionate share of our exports originate.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. LUCKING,
20/17 Broad Court, WC2,
October 3.

From Mr Rowland J. Gee

Sir, Our unplanned exit from the ERM and the subsequent "guessing game" has seriously impaired industry's ability to predict sales, margin and cost.

We were overvalued against the Deutschmark and in my industry we were unable to compete with the hi-tech engineered production of Germany. Quite simply DM295 bought considerably more there than £100 did here.

From Professor J. F. J. Tope and others

Sir, We refuse to believe in the government's readiness to cut another large slice off Britain's aid budget (letters, October 5, 8). Aid as a proportion of GNP has already fallen from half to one third of 1 per cent (1979-92). As heads of scientific institutes researching overseas development, we write to support the Archbishop of Canterbury's courageous call ("Tories and the church", October 6) for the aid programme to be increased.

Our own research and experience tells us how beneficial most of Britain's aid programmes and projects are, both to the recipients and to the UK's international position. A budget so long squeezed now contains very little nugatory or misdirected expenditure.

The cumulative experience of aid management has taught many lessons on how to ensure aid effectiveness. So the potential for well-targeted aid has never been better — nor has the need for it been greater.

Any cut now would cripple in particular our bilateral efforts, both in short-term relief and in British-de-

signed development schemes. Our plea is not for ourselves, but for millions of poor people world-wide whose lives are improved by our aid.

Hitting the most vulnerable the hardest is not morally attractive, nor can it be in Britain's national interest.

Why alienate friends in developing countries when in the long run their prosperity and our trading interests must be intertwined? Britain's political credibility would only be further eroded by such a shortsighted economy.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. J. TOPE
(Institute of Development Studies),
RICHARD FEACHEM
(London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine),
JOHN HOWELL
(Overseas Development Institute),
MICHAEL MCWILLIAM
(School of Oriental and African Studies),
DAVID MOLYNEUX
(Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine),
JOHN H. D. PRESCOTT
(Wye College),
M. M. H. SEWELL
(Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine),
Institute of Development Studies,
University of Sussex,
Falmer, Brighton, East Sussex,
October 8.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ROWE,
House of Commons,
October 6.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PEACOCK,
21 Woodlands Road, Barnes, SW13,
October 7.

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The proper place for Radio 4

From Mr Michael Peacock

Sir, The BBC's plan to replace Radio 4 on long wave with a "rolling news service" (report, September 29; letters, October 3, 6) is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn.

The pressure from BBC News to take over Radio 4's long-wave frequency has put BBC Radio in an impossible position. Unless it gives up its plan to close Radio 4 long wave, the BBC's most loyal listening public will march upon Broadcasting House, or start blocking motorways. However, if it carries on as at present, using three wavelengths for Radio 4, the vast majority of the Radio 4 audience will continue to listen in mono, which is tantamount to admitting that broadcasting Radio 4 in stereo is a waste of licence-payers' money.

This may be why the BBC has not made a case to the government to be allowed to continue Radio 4 on long wave. It could also explain why BBC Radio management has given in to pressures from BBC News for more airtime.

The BBC claims it has discovered a "high demand" for a rolling news service. This claim appears to be based upon the listening figures for Radio 4's continuous coverage of the Gulf war, and sounds to me like a classic example of "BBC speak".

As a former member of BBC management, I do not believe in this demand. My impression is that Radio 4 listeners like the present range of news and comment and that many of them would welcome a bit less news coverage, not more.

Let us hope that the BBC will think again. It should delay any irrevocable decisions until after the forthcoming review of the BBC Charter. If it does not, our new national heritage secretary should intervene and request the BBC to continue Radio 4 transmissions on all three wavelengths, as at present. This would be a welcome sign that he is ready to take account of the views of listeners and licence-payers in his review of the BBC's future.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PEACOCK,
21 Woodlands Road, Barnes, SW13,
October 7.

From Brigadier John Russell

Sir, Mr Adam Western (letter, October 6), in accepting being cut off from Radio 4 himself, fails to realise that tens of thousands of British servicemen whose time on the Continent is neither as voluntary, nor, possibly, as lucrative as his, are also to be cut off.

Further, there are many thousands of us here in the Channel Islands who, at present standards of transmission, will be similarly disadvantaged although we do pay our television licences.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. P. RUSSELL,
L'Amarrage,
Alderney, Channel Islands,
October 6.

From Miss Jane Francis

Sir, My mother represented all the features of the devoted radio listener noted in previous correspondence. She was carrying her radio from room to room many decades before the advent of the "tranny".

However, she also came to represent a group I have not seen mentioned: the elderly partially-sighted and increasingly deaf. In my mother's later years she became more and more dependent on the radio for company but found adjusting it very daunting.

There must be many people like her who should not be deprived of the easily managed long-wave Radio 4.

Yours faithfully,
JANE FRANCIS,
152 Churchway, Haddenham,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Over the top

From Mr Paul Eddington

Sir, The cruelty and insensitivity with which Matthew Parris ("...and moreover", September 28) drew careful attention to, and ridiculed, a performer's attempt to conceal his baldness shocked and amazed me. He all but named his victim, who must now be an object of attention, amusement and, one hopes sympathy, to all with whom he comes in contact.

It is difficult to see how Mr Parris could make amends.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL EDDINGTON,
c/o ICM Ltd.,
76 Oxford Street, W1.

Harvest lesson

From Dr E. A. Smith

Sir, At our harvest festival service the young reader of the lesson from St Matthew advised us to "take therefore no thought for the morrow". As my wife whispered: "It's the pumpkins you have to watch."

Yours sincerely,
E. A. SMITH,
27 Hewgate Court,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

was in attendance.

Service dinners

Appointment

Appointment

Captain Shaun Lyons to be a Circuit Judge assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

181 4000

481 4000

What a blow: Richard O'Brien, presenter of the Channel 4 programme *Crystal Maze*, tries out a "puffiometer", a prizewinning entry in a competition for schools run by the National Asthma Campaign to test Mr O'Brien's puff, and discover the capacity of his lungs, is Kate Ralph, 9, of Broadway School, in Devon, one of the schools that designed and made a winning entry.

BY PAUL WILKINSON

Its architect was Ignatius Bonomi, who built many significant churches in northern England and designed the country's first railway bridge at Skerne, co. Durham for the

BIRTHS: Sir George Tomline, *Barrister*, 1792; *Baroness of Winton*, 1807; *Bury St Edmunds*, 1750; *Chapman*, 1818; *Carmille Saint-Saëns*, composer, 1835; *Nikolai Bakharin*, revolutionist, Moscow, 1888; *Jacques Tati*, actor and film director, Paris, 1908; *John Lennon*, Liverpool, 1940.

DEATHS: Claude Perrault, architect, Paris, 1688; *Richard Blackmore*, physician, 1729; *Roméo*, singer, 1729; *Joseph Farwell Glidden*, farmer, inventor of barbed wire, De Kalb, Illinois, 1906; *King Alexander I* of Yugoslavia, assassinated, Mar seilles, 1934; *Sir Wilfred Grenfell*, medical missionary, Charlote, Vermont, 1940; *Eugenio Pacelli*, Pope Pius XII 1939-58, Castelgandolfo, Italy, 1958; *Sir Henry Tizard*, scientist, 1959; *André Maurois*, Belgian writer and biographer, Paris, 1997; *C. G. Gurua*, guerrilla leader, Bolivia, 1997.

ANNOUNC

[illegible]

Mr Joe Ashton, MP; 59: Baroness Berkeley, 87; Mr Brian Blessed, actress, 55; Colonel 32; 33: Brodwin, Lord Lieutenant of County Down, 71; Miss Sally Burgess, singer, 39; Mr Paul Channon, MP, 57; Lord Cheimer, 78; the Right Rev Lord Coggan, 83; Dr William Cole, organist, 83; Sir Colin Connors, chairman, 62; 61; Mr Desail Davies, 61; Mr Stuart Eddin, gold and silversmith, 61; Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, 85; Professor Sir Herbert Duthie, provost, University of Wales College of Medicine, 63; Mr Peter Elliott, athlete, 30; Sir David Goodall, diplomat, 61; Lord Hallisham of St Marylegh, KC, 43; 85; Miss Mary Jarrett, 92; 93; Sir H.L.A. Lambert, chairman, Sun Alliance Group, 67; the Duke of Manchester, 54; Sir John Margeson, diplomat, 55; John N.M. Mischler, former chairman, Hoechst UK, 72; Earl Nelson, 51; Miss Catherine Neville-Rolfe, private secretary, 48; 49; 48; Mr Steve Ock, engineer, 34; Norman Payne, former chairman, BAA, 71; Mr John Pilger, journalist, author and film maker, 53; the Earl of Plymouth, 69; Commander Michael Saunders Watson, former president, Historic Houses Association, 58; Sir Michael Seymour, 58; 59; 58; 59; 58; Donald Sinden, actor, 69; Colonel the Earl of Strath, 86; Mr Bill Tidy, cartoonist, 59.

The following have been elected officers of the Needleworkers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr Stuart Anslow-Wilson;
Senior Warden, Mr Ronald Hadley;
Junior Warden, Mr Stanley Flintham.

The following have been installed as officers of the Farmers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr. Adrian J. Tritton;
Senior Warden, Mrs E R Wheatley-Clifford; Junior Warden, Mr. R J. Hubbard.

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DEATHS

ASHTON - On Monday October 5th, in Greenwich Hospital, at 10.30 pm, Margaret Vaughan (Peggy) Ashton, nee Vaughan, wife of the Revd. Tom Ashton, Private family funeral service at 11.30 am. Thanksgiving Service at St. Margaret's, Isle, SE15, on Saturday, October 6th, at 2 pm, followed by a luncheon service. Please, but there will be a box for donations to Lewisham.

BANCE - On October 7th 1992, Richard Charles, aged 58 years, of Mrs Peggy Bance, peacefully after a brief illness at home in Bance Road, Brixton, passed away leaving wife Brenda and daughter Margaret.

CLARK - On October 6th 1992, Alexandra Lucy Margaret Clark, born 3 months premature, on September 5th 1982. For 34 days. Had a sister and Simon and Caroline had a daughter. All loved her. No flowers, please but donations payable to the British Heart Foundation.

COOPER - On October 5th, Derek Ernest, of Herne Bay, Kent, suddenly. The funeral service will be held at St. Church, Herne, on Wednesday October 14th at 11.00 am. Revd. G. Barrie. Crematorium for family and friends. Donations please to Mountbatten Centre, Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

DOPESTICK - On October 5th, peacefully, Edgar Benjamin, late of Priests Avenue, Brixton, aged 89, of Aghvalni and father of Vienne and Roberta. Family and friends to attend. Burial, Orpington, Kent, at 11.15. Monday October 12th.

DWYER - On October 6th 1992, peacefully, at Greenwich Court, Cromwell, Surrey, Frances Mary East Sussex, Freeman of the City of London. Much loved husband and daughter. 1994. Enquiries c/o 1994. 32420.

DRURY - On October 7th, after a long illness caused by cancer, Basil John, 66, Funeral Arrangements by Mrs. Margaret Drury, 10th, 2.30 pm. Donations for Macmillan Nurses or Cancer Research (c/o British Funeral Services, Shertingham.

HAMPSON - On Sunday October 4th, 1992, Mrs. Jean Adams aged 82, of rnee Adams and formerly of 10, St. George's Road, the beloved wife of Dr. George Adams, died at home. Peter and George, Cremation at Alderbrook Crematorium, 10.30 am. Friends to meet at 2.30 pm. After the cremation funeral service at 3.00 pm. Flowers are wanted to meet at 3.00 pm. Bugle. The British Flowers or donations to the British Heart Foundation. The Alzheimer's Disease Society may be sent to A & W Cold Ltd, Funeral Directors, Kent Road, Fleet, Hants.

HILL - On October 2nd 1992, Ray Francis, 67, Burial. Family and donation have been placed. Memorial Service to be announced later.

HOLMAN - On October 8th, peacefully at home, William, after a spirited two years illness, aged 80. Much loved wife of Kim and daughter, Mrs. Margaret Holman, Severe. Alice and Catherine Grandmother of Mark, Lily, John and David. Wednesday October 14th at 12 noon at St Mary's, Littlehampton. Family and friends only. Donations if desired to The Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3.

HUTSON - On October 4th, Sir Frank Hutson, aged 97, peacefully at home. Barbara, dearly loved husband of the late Muriel Hutson, died at home. Father of Michael, John and Phillips. Funeral Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 am. Burial, Brompton Cemetery, Brompton, London on Oct 9th at 5 pm.

DEATHS

KEITH - On October 6th 1992, Jaleen Kathleen Tate Hargrett, departed this life at her home. She was born 1908. Her husband, Desmond Keith and much loved son, David, both deceased. Cremation service at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday, October 12th at 1.15 pm.

MARSDEN - On October 7th, peacefully, Audrey Maud Marsden, aged 87, formerly of Bognor Regis and now resident at the nursing sister of Barbara Reynolds Funeral at Chichester Crematorium on Wednesday, October 14th, at 12 noon. Friends may call at Son, South Pallant, Chichester, tel: 02043 782136.

MCCARTHY - On October 1st 1992, at his residence, the Supreme Court Judge, Geraldine McCarthy, formerly of Dublin, following a major accident in Spain, survived father and mother of Niall, Ruth, David and Barbara. Their funerals will take place on Wednesday, October 7th at 11.30 am at St. Mary's Church, Farnham. Family Members: Frances Margaret Directors, 56 Alington Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-708 7021. Fax: 010 355 1784345.

MEAGHER - On October 7th, peacefully, Mrs. Catherine Nursing Home. Mr. Timothy Meagher: to her 89th birthday. Born 1903. In the Grifflin and Beaufre Brever. Wife of the late Capt. George Meagher. Survived by daughter, mother of Grifflin, Timothy, elderly, Ronaldty and Faith and much loved grand mother and great-grandmother. Enquiries to Hayward & Sons Funeral Directors, 64 Bridge Street, Drogheda, Co. Dub., SP10 1BH; tel: 0226 22222.

PATON - On October 6th, in hospital, Isabelle Paton, aged 74 years, beloved wife of John who was twice Mayor and grandfather of Simon. Funeral at Crovdon Crematorium on Wednesday, October 14th at 12 noon. Family flowers only please as the family are unable to receive them. Flowers may be sent to Friends of Mayday Hospital, Crovdon,

PHILLAN - On October 6th 1992, peacefully after a long illness, Miss Phoebe Ann Summer, Terence Phillan, 100, The Crescent, Church School, Bershire, at 10 am on October 13th. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Cancer Research Campaign, Cambridge House, 6-10 Cambridge Terrace, London WC2L 4UL.

RHEE - On October 6th 1992, peacefully, Milie. Funeral at 5 pm, October 6th 1992 at 5.00 pm. Crematorium. Flowers, donations to Cancer Research.

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OBITUARIES

SIR GEOFFREY MEADE

Sir (Richard) Geoffrey (Austin) Meade KBE, CMG, CVO, a leading member of the British consular service during and after the second world war, died on October 2 aged 90. He was born on March 8, 1902.

THE strangest mission ever assigned to Geoffrey Meade emanated from Winston Churchill during the second world war. It was to seize two healthy young Barbary apes in North Africa and urgently dispatch them across the Mediterranean to Gibraltar.

The signal marked "Top Secret" arrived after 2am at Tetuan in Spanish Morocco when Meade was then serving there as consul. The prime minister, while visiting the Rock, had been alarmed by the dwindling number of its primates. Mindful of the legend that the British would leave Gibraltar with the apes, he sent out a priority order for some more.

Meade, summoned from his bed in his pyjamas, was confronted with a task demanding great diplomatic skill. The enthusiasm of the Spanish authorities to help the British cling on to the Rock was, to say the very least, lukewarm.

But they finally, grudgingly, agreed and supplied him with a handsome mating couple which he kept in a cage in his sitting room, feeding them on bananas, until their safe conduct across the Straits could be assured.

Geoffrey Meade could thus claim to have played a small part in keeping the British Empire in one piece.

His second most unusual job during his long career in the consular service was perhaps to shave his



travelling companion, the King of Greece, while fleeing from the German advance during hostilities. Both men had cause to count themselves lucky to be alive.

Meade was serving as the consul in Crete when the Germans invaded. Advised to take shelter in his garden

during a raid, he dived into a slit trench together with an admiral from the British Embassy in Greece (whose staff had already fled from Athens) when four incendiary bombs landed. The bombs narrowly missed them but threw up such a mound of soil that Meade was buried.

Unable to move or even to see, one ear drum damaged by the blast, he thought for a moment he was about to confront his Maker, only to find instead, the anxious features of the admiral who had dug him out of his "tomb".

They then set off across the mountains where they linked up with the escaping royal court from Athens and together camped out on a beach awaiting rescue. Before leaving the consulate Meade had snatched what he thought was a blanket to protect him from the cold. It turned out to be a pile of old Cretan embroidery he had bought to take home as a present for his young wife. So he slept under the stars huddled in that — and it was to become a treasured family possession.

The royal party including Meade was eventually picked up by a British destroyer which took them to Egypt, from where they were moved to South Africa. He shaved the king when the party crossed the equator, playing the role of the barber in the traditional "crossing the line" ceremony.

Geoffrey Meade was born in France. His father, an Oxford-educated historian and educationist, had married the French heiress to a large Normandy estate and the family lived there — in between extensive travelling on the Continent. The diaries, written by his mother during the war when her manor house was occupied by about 40 German troops, was the subject of a BBC radio programme five years ago.

Young Geoffrey who grew up bilingual, was educated at the Ecole Alsacienne in Paris, then Balliol, Oxford, where he read history and

took part in amateur dramatics, becoming a founder of the Balliol Players.

He entered the Levantine section of the consular service in 1925 and was sent to King's College, Cambridge, to add Arabic and Persian to his French, German, Spanish and Italian. Then he started his eventual consular career by being sent to Tangiers in 1927.

His subsequent postings included Salonika in 1929, Aleppo, 1930, Athens, 1931, Salonika again, 1933, Tangiers for the second time in 1935, Valencia, 1939, Crete, 1940, Dakar (briefly) and Tetuan, 1943, Istanbul, 1947, Marseilles, 1951, Düsseldorf, 1957, and finally Milan 1958 — from where he retired as consul-general in 1962. He continued to work briefly for the Foreign Office, mainly on a special assignment in Venezuela, but then after 12 months opted for his Oxfordshire garden and total retirement.

Geoffrey Meade was a good horseman as well as an actor when a young man, taking part in polo and pig-sticking tournaments in Morocco. He was also deeply fond of classical music, opening his official residence while in Milan to a constant stream of visiting British opera singers and ballet dancers. Many, including Dame Joan Sutherland and Margot Fonteyn and the conductor Sir John Barbirolli and his wife, remained lifelong friends. After suffering a disabling stroke 12 years ago he kept a radio by his side permanently tuned to Radio Three.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, whom he met when they were undergraduates together at Oxford, and by three daughters.

VINCENT HALLINAN

Vincent W. Hallinan, one of America's most controversial and crusading lawyers, died at his home in San Francisco on October 2 aged 94. He was born in San Francisco on December 16, 1897.

VINCENT Hallinan was in jail, serving a six month sentence for contempt of court, when he was selected by the Progressive Party as its candidate in the 1952 United States presidential election. The nomination probably appealed to his Irish sense of mischief, but he took it seriously enough to launch a solid campaign on his release from prison, standing on a platform of ending the Korean war and in favour of the passage of civil rights legislation. In the end he got 140,000 votes — somewhat fewer than Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Throughout his career, Vincent Hallinan fought against injustice and corruption, always representing individuals rather than corporations. For years he conducted a one-man crusade to eliminate a corrupt court system in San Francisco, under which juries were filled with employees of insurance companies and others unsympathetic to negligence suits. The legal establishment at first denied his accusations, then shunned him as an outcast, but Hallinan finally won reform after exposing the Jury Commissioner as a bribe-taker.

Hallinan appeared for the defence in a number of famous murder cases, and is credited with transforming American court strategy through his habit of laying out his case in full at the outset, thus pre-empting the prosecution. His cross-examination technique was legendary, and he often displayed such superior medical knowledge that doctors called as expert witnesses were made to look foolish. "That's all," Hallinan would say on such occasions, "you can crawl down off the witness stand now."

His most celebrated case was the defence of Harry Bridges, the Australian-born president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, who was being tried for perjury and conspiracy in 1950 after denying at naturalisation hearings that he had ever been a

communist. Throughout the 80-day trial, Hallinan fought passionately for his client, accusing the government of fraud and corruption and arguing frequently with the judge. Bridges was found guilty, but Hallinan got the conviction overturned on appeal. He himself was less fortunate: his own appeal against a prison sentence imposed by the judge for criminal contempt of court was dismissed.

A second cousin to Eamon de Valera, Hallinan was one of eight children born to Irish immigrant parents. His father was a San Francisco cable car conductor who worked 14 hours a day every day of the year, and Hallinan rarely saw him. He was educated at St Ignace College, a Jesuit institution which later became the University of San Francisco. There, he edited the college magazine, captained the football team and became the school boxing champion. The talent for fistfights served him well during his legal career, since he was much given to picking corridor fights with any opposing lawyer who had the temerity to defeat him in the courtroom. By his own scoring he had 23 such encounters.

After serving with the US Navy during the first world war, Hallinan returned to St Ignace to complete his law degree and was admitted to the bar in 1921. The best efforts of the Jesuits, however, failed to inspire him with much loyalty for their cause: Hallinan subsequently sued the Roman Catholic Church for fraud, demanding that it produce proof of heaven and hell. His practice thrived from the start. He rapidly gained a reputation for meticulous preparation, innovative courtroom strategy, and a readiness to represent unpopular causes and notorious criminal defendants. But his militant style frequently got him into trouble.

On one notable occasion, when a judge asked if he meant to show contempt for the court, Hallinan replied: "No Your Honour, I'm trying to conceal it." He referred to one prosecutor as "the greatest incompetent since Caligula made a consul of his horse."

Hallinan continued to work actively until shortly before his death. He is survived by Vivian and five sons.

JOE MITCHENSON



Magpies with a mission: theatre historians Joe Mitchenson, left, and Raymond Mander at the National Theatre

Francis "Joe" Mitchenson, author, theatre historian and joint founder of the Mander and Mitchenson Theatre Collection, died in Orpington Hospital on October 7 aged 81. He was born on October 4, 1911.

JOE Mitchenson was an actor who early on became a magpie. With his partner, the late Raymond Mander, he assembled a mammoth collection of theatrical memorabilia which became the best archive of its kind in the country. Newspapers, magazines and researchers for television programmes knew that the Mander and Mitchenson collection was the best bet for anyone in search of a rare photograph, a yellowing playbill or just simply an object connected with those who once trod the boards. The response was immediate. Mander and Mitchenson knew exactly what they possessed and where to find it. Their Sydenham house might have been crammed full of theatrical incunabula and some more recent items, — even the lavatory carried part of the archive — but the two men had everything filed away in the memory bank.

They met just before the last war when they were appearing together in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Both had strong theatrical connections. Mander's parents were enthusiastic patrons, with an especial liking for the music-hall which they passed on to their

son. Mitchenson came from within the "profession" and appeared as a child dancer before training at the Fay Compton School of Dramatic Art. His West End debut was in *Libel* at the Playhouse in 1934, a production in which an unknown called Alec Guinness had a walk-on part. During the war Joe Mitchenson served in the Royal Horse Artillery until he was invalided out in 1943. He continued acting professionally until 1948, but with Raymond Mander he used every opportunity on tour to raid antique shops and second-hand bookshops in search of anything which carried a tincture of theatrical history. It could be a postcard or a playbill, a painting or a figurine representing some past performance or, better still, a discarded costume or prop.

The hobby eventually took over. They began to arrange small theatre exhibitions around the country. A little money came in from radio plays and the first of a long series of books covering every aspect of the theatre began to be published. *Hamlet Through the Ages* came out in 1952; there were "Companions" to twentieth century dramatists including Shaw, Maugham and Coward. Mander and Mitchenson, though, were concerned not just with words and grease-paint but also with bricks and mortar: *The Theatres of London* (1961) was followed by *The Lost Theatres of London* (1969). Both studies

were meticulously researched. Joe Mitchenson also combined with newspaper critics, including J. C. Trewin and Philip Hope-Wallace, on other studies.

Mander and Mitchenson became part of the West End theatre scene, especially its first nights. They were thespians and they were flamboyant, often favouring opera cloaks and long flowing neckerchiefs as they held court in

the stalls. The physical contrast was considerable. Mander was short with something of the stance of an expugilist; Mitchenson tall, with long grey, flowing hair and, in later years, a silver knobbed cane. They became the friends of the stars, who dubbed them "The Boys" or, in the case of Noël Coward, "Gog and Magog". And they benefited from that friendship. The

collection was augmented by a number of gifts from actors and actresses tidying their homes, to say nothing of legacies. Noël Coward left them among other items a dressing-gown apiece.

By 1977 the collection was overflowing the Sydenham house and a trust was established with Lord Olivier as president with the understanding that all should eventually be left to the nation.

After a number of problems, some of which were caused by the impending abolition of the G.L.C., the collection was moved to Beckenham Place in 1983, the year in which Raymond Mander died, and Joe Mitchenson took an apartment in the same building. There he stayed close to all the objects he had acquired over fifty years of searching, cajoling and just plain bidding until his own death.

Latest wills

Mr Richard Martin Bingham, QC, former Northern circuit judge, and Conservative MP for Garton 1957-66, left estate valued at £1,055,619 net.

Sir Ralph Reginald Mills, of Winchester, East Sussex, former businessman and vintage motorist enthusiast, and grandson of the pre-Raphaelite painter John Everett Millais, left estate valued at £449,301 net. He left £500 to Trinity College, Cambridge. The Rev Peter Wain Pitt Brook, of Clifton, Bristol, the England-Barbarian rugby footballer and chaplain of Clifton College, left estate valued at £124,603 net. He left £5,000 to Clifton College to set up a charitable fund to assist children entering the college in financial need, £1,000 to Abington School, Oxfordshire, £500 to Emmanuel College, Cambridge and £100 to Ridley Hall, Cambridge.

Miss Jean Lanyon of Isleworth, northwest London, left estate valued at £389,847 net. She left £500 to St Christopher's Hospice, London SE26, and the residue equally between the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Royal College of Surgeons, National Library for the Blind, RNLI, and Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, London SW15.

Professor Geoffrey Reginald Giles, of Roundhay, Leeds, Professor of Surgery at Leeds University, left estate valued £195,622 net.

Miss Amelia Christina Williams, of Meols, Merseyside, formerly of Anfield, Liverpool,

left estate valued at £176,087 net. She left her entire estate equally between the RNLI and the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid): Ruth Mary Wetherell, of Rye, Salop £735,647

Maureen Agnes Deamley, of West Bridgford, Notts £621,154

Mr Thomas Arthur Lawry Strachan Hicks, of Calstock, Cornwall, £1,142,739

Mrs Betty Scott Gutteridge, of Chelmsford, Essex, £543,763

Mrs Annie Irving of Hutton, Merseyside, £789,796

Mr Ralph Jahn, of London W14 £529,431

Mrs Doris May Jarvis, of Walsall, West Midlands £1,021,211

Mr Leonard Albert Maybury, of Harborne, Birmingham £639,650

Mr Frederick Peach, of Barnet Green, Wores £570,230

Mrs Gwendoline Stuart, of Bourne, Dorset £535,218

Mr Heinrich Wydra, of London NW4 £737,521

Miss Joan Harvey Wyllis, of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk £646,713

Mr Guy Hornfray Addenbrooke, of Willsbridge, Avon £513,889

Prospectors search isle of gold

By JOHN YOUNG

GO WEST, young man, might still be the advice given to those seeking wealth in the dark days of 1992, just as it was in 1849 and 1886. But for Europeans the new Klondike is not as far as California or Alaska: it is the Achill Islands off the coast of Co. Mayo, in the Irish Republic.

A few weeks ago stormwaters exposed traces of gold, as well as lead and zinc, in what are claimed to be marketable quantities. Since then prospectors have been visiting the remote and beautiful islands in unseasonable numbers.

The 90 inhabitants of the island of Inishtrunk are alarmed at the invasion of their solitude and have declared firmly that their heritage is not for sale.

Ireland is not unfamiliar with gold rushes. In 1968 small quantities were discovered in Co. Wicklow, a few miles from Dublin; seven years ago there was activity in the Sperrin mountains in Co. Tyrone; and in 1990 the government banned prospecting on the "holy mountain" of Croagh Patrick on the mainland overlooking the Achill Islands, which St Patrick is said to have climbed in the 5th century and which attracts 100,000 pilgrims a year seeking less worldly blessings.

Bronze Age coppermine is open to visitors

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A MINING engineer, a geologist and an accountant have opened a Bronze Age copper mine in North Wales as a private enterprise.

Visitors can penetrate shafts and tunnels dug over three thousand years ago, and examine stone and bone tools used to extract and process the ore.

The mine, on Great Orme Head at Llandudno, had long been reputed as Roman or Celtic in origin. However, it was only when Duncan James, a local amateur archaeologist, followed up a hunch that the workings were very much earlier than had been believed that ancient charcoal was discovered. This was later dated by radiocarbon to before 1000 B.C.

At this point the Welsh Development Agency, which had been charged with the task of removing the debris from Victorian mineshafts on the Great Orme, proposed to bulldoze the entire area. Tony Hammond, a mining engineer who had explored ancient mines around the world, persuaded the development agency to leave the upper 40ft of the Victorian shaft open to give access to the prehistoric workings.

Mr Hammond (no relation of your correspondent) has now been joined by two partners, geologist Andy Lewis

and accountant Edric Roberts, in the Great Orme Mine Company Limited, which has obtained a 40 year lease on the area and has built a centre for visitors.

The mine itself has been studied further, yielding radiocarbon dates as far back as 2200 BC and spanning some 1,600 years.

The tunnels themselves go at least 300 metres (1,000ft) into the hillside and descend 70 metres below the surface, on at least ten levels. Some of the chambers that were carved out by the miners are so large they were thought to be Victorian in date when they were first recorded.

The tunnels follow the twisting veins of ore through the soft limestone. Hundreds of stone hammers, made from beach pebbles, and picks and scrapers made from antlers and animal bones have been recovered: the largest hammer weighs more than 29 kilograms (64 lb).

Many of the tunnels were so narrow that they must have been worked by child labour. The process of extraction has been recreated on a video which is being shown in the visitor centre, after which the top two levels of the Bronze Age mine can be toured.

Source: Current Archaeology 130:404-9.

Club gives women a welcome

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Wig and Pen Club, a watering hole for lawyers and journalists housed in intriguingly rickety Tudor premises close to Fleet Street and immediately opposite the Law Courts, is aiming to entice women into membership.

It is not, the chairman Bernard Coral admits, that the Wig and Pen has not had women members before. "It is just that the club adopted a rather chauvinist attitude and never liked it to be known that women could join", he says.

In fact the club's founder, a former London night-club waiter called Dick Brennan, had the habit of signing up life members at £1 or nothing according to mood, but Mr Coral, who has run the club since 1981, thinks fewer than 50 women were ever admitted. The present active male membership he estimates at 3,250.

Mr Coral's father, Joe, now aged 87, was Mr Brennan's partner, and is opposed to women's membership to this day. But now Bernard's daughter, Michele, has tipped the balance in women's favour by insisting, when she put a considerable amount of her money into the club after a business expansion share scheme failed earlier this year, that women should be publicly welcomed as members.

Ethel Hudson

ETHEL Hudson, the last surviving member of New Hampshire's Shaker colony, has died aged 96. Her death marks the end of more than 200 years of Shaker pacifism and simple living at the village. The US has only one other Shaker community, in Maine.

Hudson, born in Salem,

Mass, performed various jobs at the village, serving as a pastry cook, housekeeper, seamstress and tour guide.

In 1965 Shaker elders and elders decided not to accept new members but to set up a trust to protect remaining villages of the sect, which once numbered 6,000 members in 24 communities. The New Hampshire community will remain as a museum.

ON THIS DAY 1952

Oct 9

This fearful accident occurred when a Perth-London express, running late, collided with a local train standing in Harrow station; soon afterwards, the Euston-Liverpool express, double-headed and running hard, plunged into the wreckage. It was stated later that 112 persons had been killed.

DEATH ROLL UP TO 85 IN RAIL CRASH

One of the gravest railway disasters ever experienced in Britain caused the loss of at least 85 lives and injury to more than 200 persons at Harrow and Wealdstone station, on the main London Midland region line from London to the Midlands and north, just before 8.20 this morning. A hundred and seventy of the injured were detained in hospitals. All the most dire features of such severe accidents — except outbreak of fire — contributed to the loss of life in this tragic wreck of three trains.

The night express from Perth to London, travelling an hour late, entered the station on the up fast line, where there was already standing a semi-fast local train which had left Tring at 7.31 a.m. for Euston. The impact was severe, but within a matter of seconds — almost certainly less than a minute afterwards — another express, the 8 a.m. bound from Euston to Manchester on the next track — the down fast line — plunged into the wreckage. Its departure from Euston had been delayed by five minutes.

The loss of life among the passengers in these three trains was severe, but to it were added casualties among passengers still on the platforms, and more on a footbridge immediately above the wreck. In this footbridge, by which passengers gain access to the central platforms, a great hole

was torn as the coaches of the three trains piled upon each other to a height of about 30ft. The hole was nearly the width of the two tracks and people crossing the bridge were struck and plunged into the wreckage below.

In a moment the station became one great point of casualty, in which the impromptu services of the survivors brought valuable first aid assistance; and it was not many minutes before vital services were drawn there from Wealdstone, Harrow, and the neighbouring parts of Middlesex. The whole of this main railway artery was closed to traffic, and for hour after hour everything was done to succour the injured and extricate the dead.

The accident had occurred at a time when this suburban station was at its busiest. Of the tracks which run through it from north-west to south-east — that is, from Watford towards Wembley and Euston — the last lines — both up and down — are the central pair. To one side of them run the slow pair, with another platform, sidings, and a seventh track beyond; and to the other side of the last lines are the electric tracks of the Broad Street and Euston-to-Watford suburban service, over which run also trains of the Bakerloo line.

The second collision brought a deafening sound, as of an explosion, and debris was hurled about the station. The Manchester train was "double-headed". Its two engines travelling heavily under steam, were making good speed for the long gradient ahead. In front of them, the powerful locomotive of the Perth-Euston express had become deeply embedded in the rear coaches of the local train, and some of its coaches, including a sleeper, were reared up.

Into this wreckage the two locomotives plunged at considerable speed. By the impact they were forced to the left, away from the other trains. They ploughed through and across platforms 3 and 4, demolishing the stone-work and causing most casualties among people waiting there.


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BUSINESS TIMES


FRIDAY OCTOBER 9 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

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TODAY IN BUSINESS
BURNT OUT

Ahead of next week's announcement of pit closures, Patricia Tehan reports that coal production is slumping
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GOING BUST
The recession has seen 3,301 companies fail so far this year, and the trend is still rising, KPMG data shows
Page 25

CUBA PLEA

President Bush has been urged by the EC Commission to veto an expansion of America's trade embargo against Cuba
Page 21

MERGER MOVE
The Sun Alliance and Royal Insurance groups have merged their non-life operations in Australia
Page 21

TOMORROW

Carol Leonard talks to the man who turns dreams of owning your own home into a reality - Jim Birrell, chief executive of the Halifax Building Society

Pound makes steady gains after speech

Lamont's new policy fails to impress City

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE economic policy framework spelled out by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, left City economists unimpressed, but encouraged currency dealers to mark up the pound amid hopes of lower German interest rates.

Sterling dipped sharply in late morning after the release of a letter from Mr Lamont to the Commons Treasury and civil service select committee, giving details of the policy to replace the counter-inflationary discipline of the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM).

The Chancellor's main policy points were:

- A new target for underlying annual inflation (RPI excluding mortgage interest payments) of 1-4 per cent for the rest of the current Parliament.
- A long-term goal of annual inflation of 2 per cent or less.
- No set target range for the pound.
- The targeted narrow money supply measure, M0, held at 0-4 per cent.
- No formal target for broader measure of money supply.
- Other monetary indicators to be monitored.
- House prices to be monitored as a guide to inflation.
- Firm downward pressure on growth in public sector pay and spending.
- Conditions for resumed membership of ERM that make a quick return unlikely.

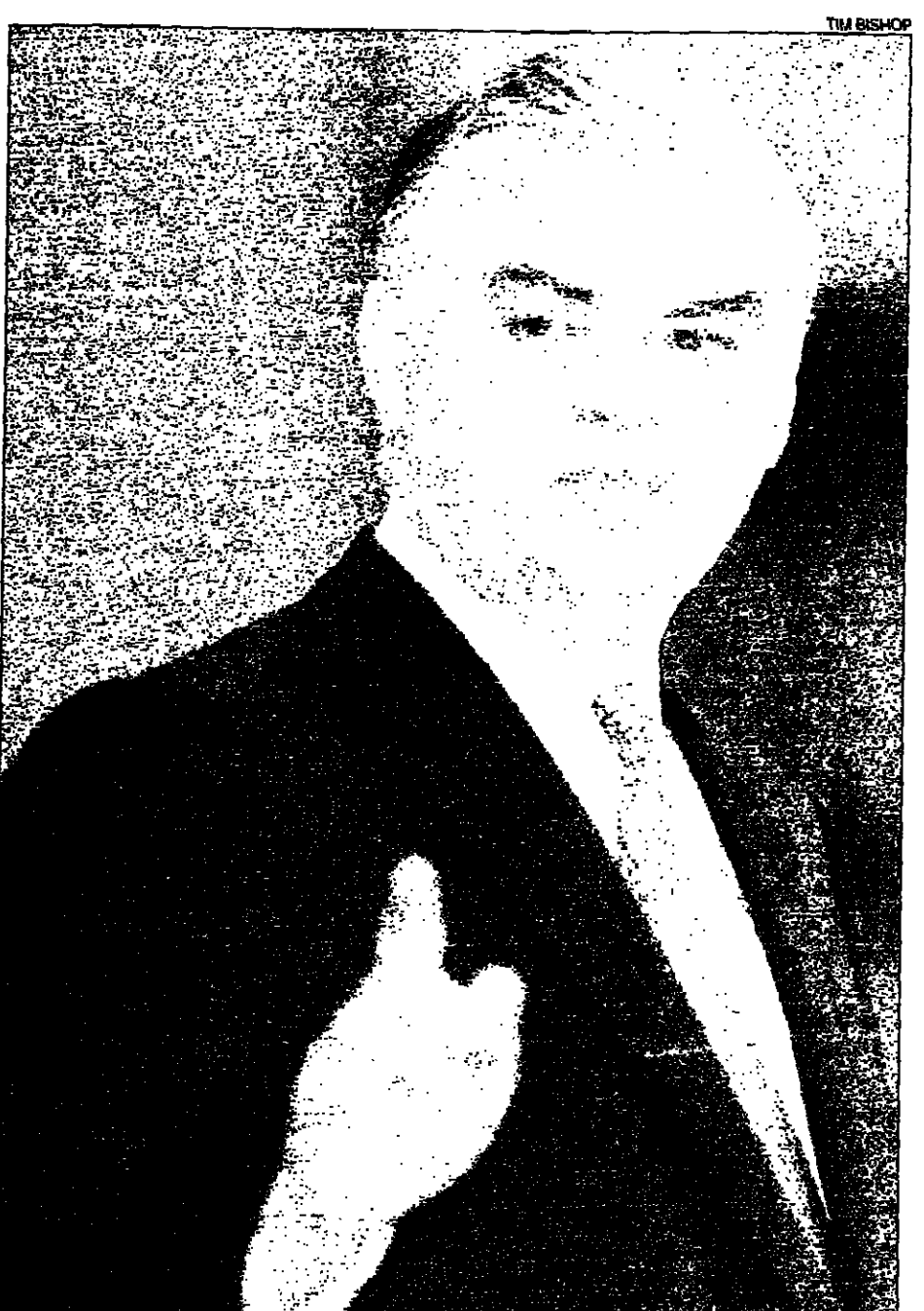
After an initial two penny drop, the pound perked up again during Mr Lamont's speech to the Conservative party conference. As dealers sought to interpret the mixed signals, the currency made steady gains to DM2.4800 at the official 4pm London close, up almost two pennings since Wednesday. At 5pm, it was quoted at DM2.4930.

The dollar benefited from market hopes of easier German monetary policy, climbing three pennings to more than DM1.47. Against the pound, it ended at \$1.6905, up almost three cents. Sterling's trade-weighted index was unchanged at 82.

The stock market was unsure about how to take the policy, which leaves the Chancellor with a great deal of discretion when setting policy, rather than meeting declared official targets. The FT-SE 100 ended at 2,538.8, up 21.7.

Although some analysts read Mr Lamont's warning that there would be no quick fix as ruling out an early easing in British interest rates, others believed the pound's firmer tone, and softer German money market rates, could tempt the Chancellor to shave half a point off base rates to coincide with the prime minister's speech at Brighton today.

The retail price index for September, out this morning, is expected to show annual



No quick fix: Norman Lamont addresses the Conservative conference yesterday

CBI wants the pain shared

By COLIN CAMPBELL

THE Confederation of British Industry called for the freezing of the government's wages bill, and for the public sector to share the pain of the recession.

The CBI said the Chancellor was right to restate his commitment to controlling inflation. "His target appears realistic and sensible, and we welcome the recognition of the importance of the exchange rate in conducting monetary policy."

However, the confederation urged that the burden be spread more evenly between public and private sectors, without endangering public investment programmes.

Industry reaction to Mr Lamont's speech ranged from mild praise to outright criticism. The Builders Merchants Federation said the construction industry was still waiting for the breath of life, and that it was disappointed there had been no cut in interest rates.

Trevor Norman, spokesman for the federation, said: "There can be no cutting back on current capital investment works if the building industry, and the economy, is to improve."

The Institute of Directors said by setting for the first time a target for underlying inflation, the Chancellor had made "a very positive step forward".

The institute thought his address was a "strong economic package" for Britain.

Jeffrey Herbert, chief executive of Charter Consolidated, the industrial group with mining equipment, rail track and building product interests, and an employer of 5,500 in Britain, said the government still has to come up with a mechanism for growth, which in turn has to be linked to interest rates.

Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chairman of the diversified Sears group which is especially sensitive to consumer spending, said the public still needs to look for—and to be given—confidence. The Chancellor's message was much of the same, and much as expected.

Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said: "Dr Doolittle only talked to the animals — this little Chancellor just talks big and acts small." Mr

Governor defends the City on ERM

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, last night dismissed accusations that City speculators forced the government to pull the pound out of the exchange-rate mechanism last month.

In a speech to a Confederation of British Industry dinner at Duxford, near Cambridge, he said the root cause was the "unexpected emergence of extreme tension between Germany's domestic monetary needs and our own". Mr Leigh-Pemberton said the pressure went deeper than technicalities.

The government's decision to withdraw sterling from the ERM was accompanied by suggestions in the media and by politicians that "wicked speculators" were responsible for the currency market turmoil.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton, commenting on such suggestions, said he understood distaste at images of dealers gloating over profits made at the nation's expense. But he warned his audience not to be misled; talk of speculators was a "caricature".

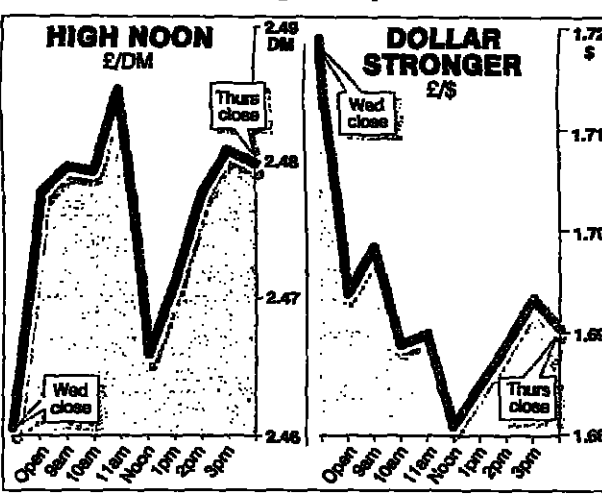
He said most selling of the pound had almost certainly originated with corporate treasurers, or fund managers. These had sought to protect the value of their assets, or those of their clients and customers, against devaluation.

"When there is a clear risk that a currency will lose 5 or 10 per cent of its value overnight, there is inevitably a rush for the exit," he said.

The Governor pointed out that the banks had prudential limits on speculative positions they could take against sterling. There were people ready to take a large-scale gamble, but it was "implausible to see straight market speculators as the arbitrary origin of the problems".

In response to calls for measures to penalise speculators, Mr Leigh-Pemberton said it would be impossible to target just the supposedly guilty. Restrictions on the free movement of capital would hurt people protecting the value of their assets.

On the question whether intervention came too late, he said he was certain that earlier large-scale action to prop up sterling would merely have hastened its collapse.



Ibstock to shut half its brick factories

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

IBSTOCK Johnson is to close half its brick-making plants in Britain in response to chronic overcapacity, which is squeezing the British brick industry. The move is part of a two-year rationalisation programme.

The 1.6 billion bricks lying unused in Britain at present—equivalent to about half a year's production—are depressing prices. Ibstock intends to cut its own output from 280 million this year to 230 million by the end of 1994.

But Ian Madellian, managing director, said the number of jobs lost at Ibstock, which employs more than 1,000 people in its brick business, would be limited because only smaller plants would be closed. Two have been shut, at Telford in Shropshire, and Sevenoaks in Kent, at a cost of about 40 jobs, but the aim will be to concentrate production

Trafalgar investors hostile to HK Land

By ANGELA MACKAY

HONGKONG Land, the property arm of Jardine Matheson, which bought 14.99 per cent of Trafalgar House last week, appears unlikely to succeed in buying another 15 per cent of the property, engineering and construction group by its deadline of 4.30pm today.

Three of Trafalgar House's biggest institutional shareholders, which together speak for more than 10 per cent of the group, said they would not accept Hongkong Land's tender offer of 85p per ordinary share and 82p per A ordinary share.

One of the fund managers said he had been buying shares in Trafalgar House "all the way down" in the expectation the stock would be worth between 160p and 200p in about two years. "We will not sell on the cheap," he said.

Shares in Trafalgar House yesterday closed at a slight premium to the offer at 86½p for the ordinary shares and 83½p for the A shares.

The institutional investors think it possible that Hongkong Land will obtain board representation.

But they deny suggestions of a move to oust the existing management, led by Sir Nigel Brookes, the chairman, and Sir Eric Parker, the chief executive.

In its defence circular dispatched this week, Trafalgar House confirmed it was considering changes in senior management as well as the appointment of additional non-executive directors.

These changes may include Sir Eric making way for Allan Gornley, who leads Trafalgar House's successful engineering division.

Lloyd's loosens shackles for names

By JONATHAN PRYNN, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE unfortunate image of Lloyd's as a latterday workhouse for the English gentry is being softened through a package of measures to cushion the blow of crippling underwriting losses. Names who lost all and more in the great Lloyd's crash of the early 1990s are to be helped through crucial periods in their and their families' lives from a new £50 million support fund raised by the market.

The new policy, announced by Dr Mary Archer, chairman of the Lloyd's hardship committee, marks a softening in the attitude towards names by Lloyd's, which was previously seen by some as a heartless debt collector whose long arm stretched to the grave and beyond.

Circumstances justifying help for impecunious names from the support fund include payment of school fees "to ensure continuity where a child is at a crucial phase of education," and "payment of nursing home fees, retirement home fees and medical expenses".

The package also makes an approach to the hardship committee far more attractive to names. The committee was set up in 1989 to help names stagger the repayment of their losses.

It has not proved popular with names who feared what were seen as the harsh terms set by the committee. Only 130 names have so far accepted offers from the committee. Applicants were often required to move into smaller accommodation and to live on greatly reduced incomes. Any windfalls during the course of the names' lifetimes would have to be handed over to the committee while underwriting losses remained outstanding.

Many names said they would prefer personal bankruptcy, which puts a time

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THE POUND	
US dollar	1.6905 (-0.0285)
German mark	2.4800 (+0.0193)
Exchange index	82.0 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
STOCK MARKET	
FT 30 share	1870.4 (+23.1)
FT-SE 100	2538.8 (+21.7)
New York Dow Jones	3149.01 (-3.24)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge	17335.51 (+223.77)
INTEREST RATES	
London: Bank Base: 9%	
3-month Interbank: 8¼-8½%	
3-month eligible bills: 8¼-8½%	
US: Prime Rate: 9%	
Federal Funds: 3¼-3½%	
3-month Treasury Bills: 2 81-2 80%	
30-year bonds: 97½-97¾	
CURRENCIES	
London:	New York:
£ \$1 6900	£ \$1 6900
£ DM2 4875	£ DM1 4725
£ Sfr12 1997	£ Sfr11 3010*
£ FF6 5200	£ FF4 9875*
£ Yen204.77	£ Yen120.90*
£ Index: 82.0	£ Index: 61.6
ECU: 69.732288	SDR: 64.4594
£ ECU1.92167	£ SDR1.184000
London Forex market close	
GOLD	
London Fixing:	
AM \$350.00 PM \$350.50	
Close \$350.80-351.10	
\$207.50-207.80	
New York:	
Comex \$350.75-351.25*	
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent (Oct)	\$20.50/bbl (\$20.95)
RETAIL PRICES	
RPI: 138.9 August (1987=100)	
* Denotes midday trading price	

TEMPUS

Builders still shake at the foundations

ALTHOUGH they come from opposite ends of the construction spectrum, Istock Johnson and Higgs and Hill had much in common when they reported interim figures yesterday. Both are to lose a chairman of long-standing to retirement, both have that rarity in the sector, a resilient balance sheet, and both are having a quite spectacularly awful time at the trading level, which is being passed on to shareholders in the form of sharply cut dividends.

For Istock, the problem is a pile of 87 million unsold bricks, representing about four months' production. Although this is respectably low by brick industry standards, the vast overcapacity in Britain has forced prices down and almost halved Istock's margins. Profits from British building products, therefore, fell by £4 million, while the European and American businesses remained depressed, and the pre-tax line was down from £7.2 million to £3.1 million, requiring the dividend to be cut from 2.25p to 0.5p to restore cover to 1.5 times.

Istock is still investing heavily to create a low-cost

British brick operation and this will boost borrowings by £10 million to perhaps £40 million by the year-end, while further closures are necessary and this cost will impact on earnings. The company will therefore be lucky to report £4 million pre-tax this year.

Higgs and Hill's main difficulty is an army of competitors willing to take work at a loss to keep cash coming in the door. The company says it refuses to do this, which is why half-way turnover slumped £40 million to £150 million, but admits that the margins on the work it is winning are little more than 2 per cent. Pre-tax profits came down from £1.06 million to £673,000, and the dividend is cut from 6p to 1p.

The once-mighty construction side lost more than £1 million and will repeat this performance into the second half. Any squeeze on public spending, on roads, for example, will impact indirectly by creating yet more cash-starved builders seeking work in the company's markets. Higgs and Hill took hefty provisions last year, but yet more will probably be necessary for 1992 and could wipe



On the right course: John Westhead, chief executive of Bowthorpe, yesterday

out profits. Both shares are a long way from a recovery in a sector that is still best avoided.

Bowthorpe

ONCE again Bowthorpe has steered a steady course through turbulent markets

and reaped the rewards of a prudent approach to costs.

Management started cutting back two years ago, and presence in niche areas of electronics allowed pre-tax profits to rise 5 per cent to £22.4 million in the half year to end-June. Organic growth and acquisitions helped turn-

over to a 12 per cent rise to £125.6 million.

Operating profits from British operations, accounting for a fifth of the total, rose 23 per cent, boosted by a first contribution from Penny & Giles, acquired in April although profits there are running below expectations, the

business should still be earnings-neutral before the end of next year. Europe accounted for 41 per cent of profits, dominated by Germany.

The interim dividend is raised 5 per cent to 1.79p. Sterling's weakness led to a net benefit of £200,000, rising to £500,000 by the year-end. Gearing was almost non-existent and trading generated net cash of £8.3 million (£6.7 million). While most growth will come from further cost savings, increased productivity and new products, Bowthorpe, whose chief executive is Dr John Westhead, is pursuing acquisitions up to a value of £100 million.

Analysts expect full-year profits to rise to between £43 million and £45 million. The shares held steady at 249p, putting them on a forward price/earnings multiple of 16.7, a justified premium of about 10 per cent to the rest of the electronics sector. The shares had a fair run before the results but remain a good medium-term bet as long as Germany holds up. With the company well placed for economic upturn, the shares are worth picking up on any weakness.

Slump in construction takes toll on Galliford

PRE-TAX profits at Galliford, the construction group, slumped from £6.4 million to £3 million in the year to end-June on the back of lower sales and slimmer margins. Turnover fell to £213.2 million (£225.1 million). Earnings per share were 2.37p (4.57p). A final dividend of 3.35p (3.35p) leaves the total for the year unchanged at 4.5p.

The biggest slump came in the construction division, which saw trading profits collapse from £4.7 million to £1.6 million. Losses on materials, supplies and distribution deepened from £229,000 to £931,000. An exceptional item of £703,000 related to rationalisation costs. Tender volumes have come under considerable pressure as the total volume of work available across the industry has been reduced. The balance sheet remains strong and net cash at the year end amounted to £13.2 million.

Bilston cuts losses

BILSTON & Battersea Enamels, which makes high-quality, hand-painted decorative products, trimmed pre-tax losses to £28,000 in the six months to June 30, against a £52,000 loss last time. Turnover grew by 9 per cent to £1.76 million, with UK sales up 20 per cent from very depressed levels last time. Export sales, however, continued to be eroded by worldwide recession, particularly in America. The loss per share dipped to 0.8p (0.9p deficit). There is again no interim dividend.

Tilbury Douglas rises

TILBURY Douglas, the construction and property group, lifted pre-tax profits to £7 million (£6.6 million) in the six months to June 30. Turnover increased to £190.6 million (£89.7 million), reflecting the integration of the Douglas construction business. Earnings per share rose 13.5p (23.2p). There is a maintained interim dividend of 10.5p, covered 1.3 times by earnings. The group is ungeared and had net cash of £4.8 million at the half year. It does not expect any immediate upturn and is cutting costs.

Cairn to raise £6.1m

CAIRN Energy, the Edinburgh independent oil company, is trying to raise £6.1 million through a placing and open offer. About £1.2 million will be used to increase its UK onshore oil and gas interests through the purchase of production and exploration licences from ARCO British. The proposals will be voted on at an extraordinary meeting on November 3. Cairn made a pre-tax loss of £188,000 (£1.2 million loss) on sales of £5.7 million (£6 million) in the six months to June 30. There is again no interim dividend.

Horace Clarkson dives

TAXABLE profit at Horace Clarkson, the shipping and insurance broking group, collapsed from £6.1 million to £1.5 million in the six months to June 30. Insurance broking suffered from the problems at Lloyd's, especially from difficulties in placing personal stop-loss business. Profits from insurance broking slumped from £4.7 million to £0.5 million on reduced turnover. Freight markets also deteriorated and shipbroking profits fell from £1.6 million to £1.2 million. The interim dividend is 2.75p (0.5p).

Town Centre ahead

TOWN Centre Securities, the property investment and development group based in Leeds and run by Arnold Ziff, raised pre-tax profits to £7.2 million (£6.5 million) in the year to end-June. Gross rental and investment income increased from £15.6 million to £16.6 million. Earnings per share were 5.12p against 4.58p last time, and a final dividend of 2.1p (1.9p) a share will be paid, making a total of 3.1p (2.8p) for the year. Net assets per share slipped to 121.38p (125.75p).

Ferguson wins order

FERGUSON Shipbuilders at Port Glasgow has won a £16 million order to build two new ferries, securing the future of the Strathclyde company until 1995. The new ferries will operate between Southampton and the Isle of Wight and will replace Cowes Castle and Norris Castle, which operate on Red Funnel's passenger-vehicle service. The first vessel is scheduled to enter service in the spring of 1994 and each will carry 700 passengers and 140 cars, which will substantially increase overall capacity on the route.

Merivale Moore in the red

By JON ASHWORTH

MERIVALE Moore, the property investment and development group run by Grenville Dean, suffered a pre-tax loss of £13 million (£615,000 profit) in the year to June 30. Turnover collapsed from £78.8 million to £30.3 million and net rental income fell to £2.5 million (£4.1 million). Property markdowns accounted for £9.6 million of the overall loss.

The loss per share was 144p (earnings of 12.7p) and there is no final dividend (2.75p), leaving the total at 1p (10.5p). Head office has seen its staff cut from 32 to 12 in the past two years. Jim Neill was appointed managing director on July 1.

Claims against insurers and contractors arising from the collapse of a wall at Bishop's Depository, south-west London, in January 1989, are due to be heard in court next January.

Battle over EC energy stepped up

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, EC competition commissioner, is to ask the governments of France, the Netherlands, Ireland, Denmark, Italy and Spain to open their protected energy markets.

The written demands are the second stage in a legal battle that began last March, when Sir Leon decided the state monopolies governing electricity and gas exports and imports in the five countries were hindering the Commission's attempts to liberalise the EC energy market. The move has been kept quiet by Brussels, because the energy monopolies are jealously guarded.

The letters are unlikely to make the rebel governments acquiesce, and with the wind of subsidiarity in their sails most will probably be prepared to take the issue to the Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Courtyard slips back

By PHILIP PANGALOS

COURTYARD Leisure is passing its dividend, against a single payout of 0.5p a share last time, as losses deepened at the City of London wine bars group.

The USM-quoted company, which operates five wine bars, suffered a pre-tax loss of £228,475 in the year to end-March, against a profit of £61,588 last time, as the recessionary squeeze continued to grip the City. Courtyard

incurred a taxable loss of £58,000 in the first half. The group's losses were exacerbated by an exceptional charge of £73,219.

Turnover increased to £1.9 million, up from £1.57 million last time. There is a 3.1p loss per share, against earnings of 0.4p a share last time.

In the last month, Courtyard has held discussions with a number of shareholders concerning the future.

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John 10 1992

US plan to boycott Cuba strains relations with EC

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE trade dispute between the EC and America has a way of expanding into hidden and unexpected areas. That showed itself again yesterday, when Brussels urged President Bush to veto an expansion of the US trade embargo against Cuba.

Congress wants the embargo to be extended to cover Cuban trade with affiliates and subsidiaries of US companies in third countries — a step that could cost US companies based in the EC up to

\$500 million. An amendment to the Cuban Democracy Act was introduced by Robert Torricelli, a Democratic congressman from New Jersey, in February. It has received the assent of both Congress and the Senate.

A European Commission spokesman said the EC ambassador to the US, Andreas Van Aert, had given a note to the state department condemning the legislation late on Tuesday.

The commission gave warn-

ing in a statement yesterday that extending the embargo to companies on EC territory "has the potential to cause grave damage to the transatlantic relationship".

A spokesman for the EC's external relations commissioner, Frans Andriessen, said the EC was complaining because the US had no right to apply its laws extra-territorially. "It's not that we're trying to give a friendly hand to Fidel Castro," he said.

The commission also denounced a section of the new law that bars any ship that docks in Cuba from entering a US port for 180 days.

The statement said the commission "cannot accept that the US unilaterally determines and restricts EC economic and commercial relations with any foreign nation which has not been collectively determined by the United Nations as a threat to peace".

The Cuban embassy in Brussels applauded the commission's action. "It's an honest position," said Elio Rodriguez, its press attaché. "Evidently the Community cannot accept action like this."

Mr Andriessen's spokesman said that if President Bush signed the Torricelli amendment, which he might do before the end of the week, the commission might take the matter to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, in Geneva, where an arbitration panel could look at it.

Carla Hills, the American trade representative, and Ed Madigan, the agriculture secretary, arrive in Brussels at the weekend for trade talks with the commission, so the Cuban dispute could not have blown up at a worse moment.

Transatlantic disagreement now covers many important products, such as coal, steel and farm goods. The news that Australia and New Zealand are considering joining the newly established North American Free Trade Area has provided further proof in Brussels, if any were needed, that the EC will have to fight many battles on its own.

Users' views sought on power price curbs

BY MARTIN WALLER

STEPHEN Littlechild, the government-appointed watchdog over electricity, has invited comments from the industry and its customers on the forthcoming review of the price controls that govern electricity supply.

The results of the review, the first for the 12 privatised regional distribution companies in England and Wales since their privatisation at the end of 1990, have to be known by April 1994. If Professor Littlechild's Office of Electricity Regulation (Ofreg) is unable to reach agreement with any or all of the 12, the matter will have to go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The review precedes a more significant enquiry for the industry, into price controls on electricity distribution, which provides the bulk of the companies' profits. This enquiry, the results of which must be known by April 1995, will start immediately after the completion of the supply price review.

Offer will, none the less, find plenty of commentators on the present system, not least from big industrial energy users, who have long complained they are being overcharged.

A consultation paper sets out questions to be answered

on supply prices. "My main aims are to secure a good deal for customers and promote more effective competition," said Professor Littlechild, who said the review would be "searching and thorough". Customers, consumer groups and companies have until the end of this year to reply.

Among questions raised by Professor Littlechild is whether controls on the industry should concentrate on prices, as at present, or on profits. Some commentators have argued that profit curbs are the best way forward, given the steep rises in profits that have been announced since privatisation, but the industry itself would strongly oppose such a move.

City analysts said there were few clues in the document on the approach favoured by the regulator, although as the architect of the present price controls, he is unlikely to favour excessive change.

Professor Littlechild points out that little capital is currently required by the supply business. Profit margins depend on the risks in the business, and those are low, he says, given that 95 per cent of costs are passed on automatically and 70 per cent of the market is not open to competition.

Compaq to cut jobs in Scotland

UP TO 100 jobs are to be cut at Compaq Computer Manufacturing — 10 per cent of its Scottish workforce.

Compaq is to close its international service operation in Stirling and move it to its personal computer manufacturing plant at Erskine in Strathclyde. Jobs on the production line at Erskine will be unaffected.

John Dolan, managing director, said: "The announcement, while regretted, is a consequence of the intense competition in the personal computer markets."

Gateway sells

Gateway Foodmarkets, part of the debt-laden Isocoles, is to sell 12 stores to Iceland Frozen Foods for £2.7 million cash. Iceland plans to re-open the stores early next year.

Power role

National Power, the larger of the two electricity generators, has appointed KPMG Peat Marwick to administer its domestic tax affairs. Price Waterhouse has the overseas contract.

Suspension

Fimbra, the financial regulator, has suspended the investment business of Bliss Weinell of Fleet Street, London.

Australian merger for Sun and Royal

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

SUN Alliance and Royal Insurance, two of Britain's biggest composite insurance groups, have merged their Australian non-life operations to create the country's fourth-biggest general insurer.

The deal is the second this week involving a rationalisation of overseas British insurance operations. On Wednesday, General Accident became Canada's leading direct general insurer by acquiring the Prudential's non-life operations in that country.

The new Australian company will have two forms net premiums of more than A\$500 million (£208 million).



Gamble: fitting partners

and a 6.7 per cent share of the market. It will be called Sun Alliance and Royal Insurance Australia and will be 60 per cent owned by Sun Alliance and 40 per cent by Royal. Last year, Royal's operations made pre-tax profits of A\$22 million, and Sun Alliance reported A\$17 million. The structuring of the deal will allow Royal to repatriate £50 million of capital to the UK.

Richard Gamble, Royal's group chief executive, said the merger would give the Australian operations "critical mass" and could provide a pattern for similar deals in other geographical markets. Royal already has a joint venture with Fondiaria of Italy and AMB of Germany.

Sun Alliance made the most suitable partner in Australia because of the two companies' existing Australian motor insurance joint venture, AAMI, and because of their complementary business and geographic specialisations. Mr Gamble said, Sun Alliance is stronger in Sydney and New South Wales, while Royal is based in Melbourne and is stronger in Victoria.

Roger Neville, group chief executive of Sun Alliance, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for two companies with complementary market positions and compatible management cultures to join forces."



Bowing out: Sir Brian Hill, who is retiring as chairman of Higgs and Hill at the end of the year

Higgs and Hill to refurbish CU building

BY MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

HIGGS and Hill has won the contract to refurbish the Commercial Union building, devastated along with a large area of the City by a huge IRA car bomb in April, at a cost of £30 million to £35 million.

The contract was one bright spot in an otherwise gloomy

announcement of interim figures to end-June from the builder. Higgs and Hill, which in the late 1980s was reporting annual profits in excess of £25 million, made £673,000 before tax, down from £1.06 million last time, after first-half redundancy costs of £872,000.

Sir Brian Hill is retiring as chairman at the end of this

year. His replacement will be George Duncan, chairman of ASW Holdings, the steel concern, and Whessoe, the engineer, and on the board of Associated British Ports, BET, Calor and Laporte.

The interim dividend is cut from 6p to 1p, equal to first-half earnings per share. Sir Brian said the trading outlook for the second half remained

uncertain, with a further loss expected from construction and difficult conditions prevailing for the other businesses. "The extraordinary recent political and economic events make it difficult to predict when recovery will take place," he said. Higgs and Hill shares fell 2p to 36p.

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Bank ends long-term lending

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BROWN Shipley & Company, the troubled City merchant bank, has completed a far-reaching reorganisation and announced 15 redundancies, including three directors.

The bank, sold to Kredietbank Luxembourg for £1 last June after massive losses, is pulling out of long-term lending which caused most of its problems. It will now concentrate on trade finance, treasury, private banking and corporate advisory services.

The directors affected are Stuart Dick, Derek Connolly and Michael Halsey. Meanwhile, Richard Mansell-Jones has been appointed chairman, and Geoffrey Bell becomes managing director.

The bank will have two other British directors and five from Kredietbank, who have not been formally appointed yet.

Acorn logs advance at half-way

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

ACORN Computer Group, the USM-quoted micro-computer maker controlled by Olivetti of Italy, unveiled a pre-tax profit of £511,000 in the six months to July 3, against a loss of £420,000 in the comparative period. Turnover rose 18.6 per cent to £21.2 million.

Tight financial controls helped to trim interest costs to £139,000 (£538,000), and an "aggressive" R&D programme resulted in the launch of many new products.

Earnings stood at 0.8p a share, against a loss of 0.6p a share last time. Again, there is no interim dividend. The shares fell 5 1/4p to 36 1/4p.

TRAFALGAR HOUSE TENDER OFFER CLOSSES AT 4.30 pm TODAY

Tender Offer

by

ROBERT FLEMING & CO. LIMITED

on behalf of

HONGKONG LAND HOLDINGS LIMITED

to purchase up to an aggregate of 104,484,000 Ordinary and/or 'A' Ordinary shares in

TRAFALGAR HOUSE Public Limited Company

at

85p per Ordinary share of 20p each and at

82p per 'A' Ordinary share of 20p each

- Shareholders who wish to accept the tender offer should contact their stockbroker immediately.
- Tender forms can only be lodged by Stock Exchange Member Firms on behalf of shareholders.
- Completed tender forms should be lodged by 4.30 pm TODAY, Friday 9 October 1992, to National Westminster Bank at either:

National Westminster Bank Plc
Registrars Department
New Issues Section
15 Featherstone Street
London EC1Y 8QS

National Westminster Bank Plc
Registrars Department
New Issues Section
PO Box 859
Hartcliffe
Bristol BS99 1XZ

- Forms are available for collection by Member Firms from National Westminster Bank Plc at either of the addresses above, or from:

Robert Fleming & Co. Limited and
Robert Fleming Securities Limited
28 Copthall Avenue
London EC2R 2DR

S.G. Warburg Securities
1 Finsbury Avenue
London EC2M 2PA

- Member Firms may aggregate tenders on behalf of more than one client and lodge them as a single tender.

ADMINISTRATIVE ENQUIRIES: ROBERT FLEMING & CO. LIMITED. TEL: (071) 638 5858.

Robert Fleming & Co. Limited is acting for Hongkong Land Holdings Limited in connection with the tender offer and no-one else, and accordingly will not be responsible to any other person for providing protections afforded to its customers or for advising any other person on the tender offer.

Wiltshire has stake sale talks

BY NEIL BENNETT

CITIZENS of Madras and Calcutta may soon taste the delights of Old Grumble bitter with reports that UB Group, India's largest brewer and distiller, is poised to take a minority stake in Wiltshire Brewery, the loss-making Stourbridge company.

Shares in Wiltshire were suspended at 10p yesterday after the company said it had reached an agreement in principle for an overseas drinks group and a big British brewer to take stakes in the company. The details will be released on or before October 16 when the group's accounts are published.

The UB Group is said to be

the company which has agreed to buy a stake of up to 29.9 per cent in Wiltshire to strengthen the company's finances. As part of the deal, UB Group will appoint three directors to Wiltshire's board.

Bass, meanwhile, is said to be prepared to convert loan notes it holds in Wiltshire into equity. Wiltshire is also reported to be discussing a public houses-for-equity swap with Whitbread. The deal is being organised by the Bank of Ireland. Wiltshire brews several renowned ales, including Old Grumble and Stonehenge bitter. Despite this, the group lost £393,000 in the year to September 1991. The

cash injection should help the group expand its estate and distribution and boost its sales to cover overheads.

The UB Group of India, the country's seventh-largest industrial group, is best known in this country for Kingfisher lager, which is brewed under licence by Sheppard Neame. The company produces 96 million bottles of Kingfisher a year. It also distills 13.5 million cases of spirits, including McDowell's brandy and Bagpiper whisky, India's two leading brands. In 1988, UB Group bought the Berger paints businesses in Africa and Asia from Williams, the industrial conglomerate.

Lamont's prices pledge fails to impress

THE Chancellor's pledge to fight inflation received a lukewarm reception from City investors, who now rule out an early base rate cut. They take the view that the pledge has left them with the worst of both worlds — a devalued pound and high interest rates. Hopes are now pinned on a cut in German interest rates in the near future. But share prices managed to cling on to most of their earlier gains, helped by technical factors and another resilient performance by the pound.

The FT-SE 100 index, up more than 30 points before the Chancellor made his speech, finished the session 21.7 points higher at 2,538.8. There was little evidence of genuine retail business and brokers appeared puzzled by the market's resilience, considering there is little prospect of interest rates softening.

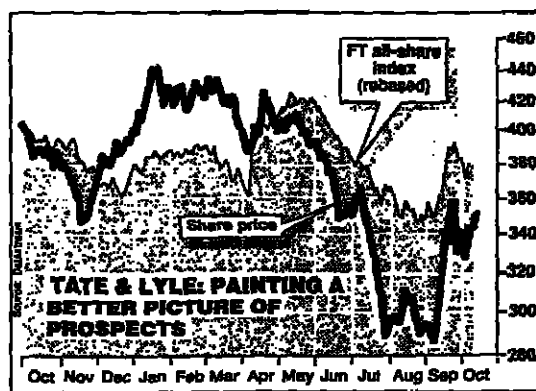
The pound's firmness accounted for part of the market's buoyancy and a steady performance by the index on the financial futures market also helped to bolster sentiment. But the short-term outlook for equities remains

uncertain and dealers' interest will be focused on the latest inflation figures, due out today.

Pharmaceutical companies attracted revived institutional support after a period in the wilderness; Glaxo climbed 13p to 777p and SmithKline Beecham "A", 9p to 503p. Bid hopes lifted Fisons 4p to 204p. Wellcome was also supported after Lehman Brothers, the New York securities house, came out in favour of the shares in the wake of new Food and Drug Administration proposals for the industry in the US.

T&N, the automotive products group, eased 3p to 138p after 4.5 million shares went through the market. James Capel, the stockbroker, is reckoned to have placed the shares at around 135p.

Tate & Lyle enjoyed a return to favour with a rise of 5p to 347p, after giving an up-beat presentation to analysts. The group's pre-tax profits are expected to drop from £235 million to £195 million in the current year, but the meeting was told there are signs of recovery in some areas.



Bowater advanced 11p to 840p in anticipation of good news from a visit to the group's interests in France. **Higgs** and **Hill** eased 2p to 36p after

Reuters came within a whisker of £12.64, hoping for good news from Chicago's futures markets vis-à-vis computerised trading system. Considerably more will be said about currency

cutting its interim dividend by 5p to 1p. This follows a drop in pre-tax profits from £1.01 million to £673,000. The group said the housing mar-

ket had continued to deteriorate, with a drop in both prices and margins. John Theakston, chief executive, said the group must be flexible on its

of its high with a rise of 22p to from next week's stockbrokers' to view the group's Globex company analysts say it is unlikely trading prospects.

full-year dividend. Bowthorpe, the electronics and electrical group, firmed 1p to 250p after announcing that results for 1992 would be

slightly better than last year's. At the half-way stage, pre-tax profits were ahead by 5 per cent at £22.4 million. Operating profits in the UK rose by 23 per cent, and there were improvements of 17 per cent in the US and 5 per cent in Europe. But the group said that a recovery was unlikely in the short term.

Ranks Hovis McDougall, the Mothers Pride and Hovis food group, marked time at 242p as turnover slowed to just 321,000 shares. The speculators are betting that Hanson will win control of the company if it improves the terms of the £780 million deal.

A counterbid is thought unlikely because of overcapacity in baking and milling and squeezed margins.

Hanson, up 5p at 213½p. should have little trouble in finding buyers for the various parts of the business.

Trafalgar House attracted selective support; the ordinary shares rose 1½p to 86½p and the "A", 1½p to 83½p. Both categories have risen 1½p above the tender offer made by Hongkong Land, which closes today. Last week, Hongkong

Land picked up 14.9 per cent of Trafalgar House in a dawn raid and announced the tender offer in an attempt to raise its total holding to 29.9 per cent.

There was speculation that Trafalgar House might have to submit to a board reshuffle in return for institutional support.

The speculators were trying to keep bid rumours bubbling at Owners Abroad, the package holiday group, which this week confirmed that it had recently received a tentative approach.

But the price continues to run into profit-taking; it finished the session 1p lighter at 69½p, after hitting 67p earlier.

Refuge Assurance held steady at 680p, although 5 million shares went through the market at about 650p. Also in the sector, Sun Alliance fell 7p to 286p; dealers were unimpressed by the company's plans to merge its Australian interests with those of Royal Insurance, unchanged at 183p.

MICHAEL CLARK

New York — Blue chips moved to new session highs in mid-morning activity, helped by positive retail sales data, gains in bonds and the dollar, and firm overseas share markets. Tom Luker, head of trading at Nikko Securities, said the market was oversold

enough for a significant advance to be possible. By late morning, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 6.22 points at 3,158.47.

□ Tokyo — Shares closed firmer after a quiet session. The Nikkei index rose 223.77 points to 17,335.51. (Reuters)

[illegible]

RISES:

Hambros	235p (+11p)
Nat West	348p (+11p)
Bass	557p (+12p)
SA Breweries	745p (+77p)
Scott & New	426p (+10p)
Capita Group	367p (+30p)
Amerisham	486p (+12p)
Euro Disney	810p (+10p)
Liberty Life	660p (+38p)
Wellcome	975p (+27p)
Welf	550p (+12p)
Courtaulds	459p (+11p)

Sage Group	402p (+22p)
BAT	847p (+9p)
BAA	710p (+10p)
Brakes Bros	409p (+10p)
Broken Hill	483p (+15p)
Glaxo	777p (+13p)
Takeda Chem	582p (+21p)
FALLS:	
Elec Data Prc	483p (-15p)
Laird	244p (-15p)
Estates Agency	200p (-50p)

THE Chancellor's determination to continue the war against inflation brought some comfort to the pound and helped to bolster government securities.

His apparent reluctance to cut interest rates cheered the longer end of the market, which has been worried about a sudden surge in inflation

1992		Stock	Price
High	Low		
SHORTS (under \$ 5)			
90%	95%	Trans 6th 1993	99%
100	97%	Trans 7th 1993	99%
101	99%	Trans 10th 1993	100%
102%	100%	Trans 12th 1993	102%
103%	102%	Trans 13th 1993	103%
104%	95%	Trans 9th 1994	104%
101-1st	95%	Trans 5th 1994	101%
102-1st	98%	Trans 10th 1994	102%
103-1st	100%	Trans 12th 1994	103%
104-1st	103%	Trans 13th 1994	104%
105-1st	104%	Trans 14th 1994	105%
94-1st	98%	Gas 3rd 1990-95	92%

Year	Dry yield %	Grain yield t/ha	1992		S
			High	Low	
1980	6.08	7.33	105%	98%	T
1981	8.25	8.13	107%	103%	T
1982	9.80	8.08	69%	59%	P
1983	12.10	7.89	104%	96%	P
1984	12.96	7.87	113%	107%	T
1985	8.46	7.94	104%	96%	C
1986	8.95	7.98	124%	116%	T
1987	11.62	8.98	65%	85%	T
1988	13.52	8.51	97%	89%	T
1989	13.38	8.00	118%	111%	T
1990	1.26	6.08	80%	82%	T
1991			125%	120%	T

	Price		1st	Gro
yr.	£	±%	ind	pp
9/16 2002	107%	+%	9.34	0.04
10/16 2003	109%	+%	9.67	0.16
9/16 2004	87%	+	5.21	2.81
9/16 2004	107%	+	9.35	0.28
11/16 2001-04	+	+	10.19	0.26
9/16 2005	+	+	9.56	0.36
9/16 2002-05	119%	+%	10.44	0.58

INGS (over 15 years)				
9/16 2002-08	89%	+1%	9.30	0.33
9/16 2002	87%	+	9.11	0.37
10/16 2003	91%	+%	10.01	0.41
11/16 2002-09	117%	+%	9.24	0.35
9/16 2008	99%	+	10.42	0.58
9/16 2002	124%	+	10.86	1.38

Compass Group	387	359
Comcast	400	390
Com Pacific	127	125
Copk Cities ABC	4365	433
Cop Holdings	51	60
Cop Holdings	318	317
Cop Holdings	517	517
Cop Holdings	289	289
Cop Holdings	249	24
Cop Holdings	205	214
Cop Holdings	34	35
Cop Holdings	225	225
Cop Holdings	828	839
Cop Holdings	51	51
Cop Holdings	149	149
Cop Holdings	417	417
Cop Holdings	29	29
Cop Holdings	37	37
Cop Holdings	374	365

5%	Sprint Corp	26	20%
52%	Synn Corp	29	20%
57%	SWI Inc	30	48%
60%	Tandem Comp	118	11%
61%	Telco Int'l	10	1%
71%	Telecomm Corp	1	1%
69%	Telephone	175	15%
39%	Temple Indusd	50	3%
37%	Tenneco	349	33%
40%	Tenover	10	1%
40%	Texas Inst	41	43%
34%	Texas Utilities	44	37%
18%	Texascom	359	25%
89%	The Warner	238	25%
89%	The Yellow	238	25%
39%	Thomson	247	24%
63%	Thornbank	514	51%
13	Toys & Us	28	37%
22%	Transamerica	439	43%

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Broadgate Inv Trust (100)	96	+1
Chubb Security	184	-4
European Smaller Co's	81	...
-do- Wts	20	...
Shirescot	96	...
Shirescot Warrants	19	...
Tepnel Diagnostics (120)	169	-5
Throg 1000 Smist Co's Wts 11		...

RIGHTS ISSUES

The shorter end of the market did not make much headway. But prices towards the middle of the range encouraged support with Exche-


115%	100%	Times 14% 1998	115%
123%	113%	Times 14% 1998	123%
100%	100%	Times 14% 1999	100%
116%	100%	Times 14% 1999	116%
MEDUUS (\$ to 15			
101%	94	Times 8% 1997	101%
125%	117%	Times 13% 1977	125%
96%	86%	Times 6% 1995-96	96%
105%	97%	Times 9% 1998	105%
116%	107%	Times 12% 1998	116%
130%	123%	Times 14% 1998	130%
100%	97%	Times 9% 1999	100%
100%	100%	Times 10% 1998	100%
109%	101%	Times 10% 1999	109%
117	109%	Times 12% 1999	117%
109%	100%	Times 12% 1999	109%
123%	146%	Times 14% 2000	123%

+	12.4	9.52				
+	12.69	9.56				
+	9.79	8.43	26%	24%	24%	24%
+	11.41	8.63	26%	24%	24%	24%
+			33%	29%	29%	29%
+	8.61	8.31	69%	59	59	59
+	12.03	8.83	44%	39	39	39
+	7.17	6.08	39%	35%	35%	35%
+	9.28	8.51				
+	10.50	9.80	126%	122%	122%	122%
+	11.98	9.03	189%	176%	176%	176%
+	9.12	8.64	152%	139%	139%	139%
+	9.58	8.82	159%	155%	155%	155%
+	9.69	9.79	151%	137%	137%	137%
+	10.35	9.58	139%	124%	124%	124%
+	8.94	8.66	142%	129%	129%	129%
+	10.75	9.16	112%	109%	109%	109%


UNDATED				
10/1/2000	26	+	0.62	...
10/2/2000	25%	+	0.60	...
10/3/2000	30	+	0.72	...
10/4/2000	59%	+	5.04	...
10/5/2000	41%	+	0.73	...
10/6/2000	30%	+	0.57	...
INDEX-LINKED				
10/1/2000	128%	-	2.01	3.68
10/2/2000	182%	+	2.94	3.99
10/3/2000	153%	+	2.19	4.11
10/4/2000	168%	+	3.83	4.11
10/5/2000	191%	-	1.31	4.30
10/6/2000	139%	-	0.56	4.56
10/7/2000	142%	-	0.39	4.12
10/8/2000	117%	-	0.36	4.12


Cooper Inds	50%	50%	McCrill Lysac	50%
Covoking Inc	76%	76%	Milwaukee A	50%
Crown Cork	50%	50%	Midatl Corp	50%
Cummins Inc	50%	50%	Milwaukee C	50%
Danaher Corp	70%	70%	Morgan CRT	50%
Dayton Hamilton	50%	50%	Motors Inc	50%
Deart	40%	40%	Next Medic	50%
Delta Air Lines	50%	50%	Ned Semi	50%
Delmar Corp	40%	40%	Nelson Ind	50%
Detroit Diesel	50%	50%	Norfolk Ind	50%
Digital Equip	35%	35%	Norwalk Inc	50%
Dillard Dept at	30%	30%	NST Bancorp	50%
at Disney (Walt)	34%	34%	NY Times A	50%
Douglas Inc	35%	37%	Newsweek M	50%
Dow Chem	50%	50%	Wm. Reuben	50%
Dover Corp	45%	45%	Nile Y	50%
Dow Chemicals	50%	54%	NL Industries	50%
Dow Jones	29%	27%	Nordstrom	50%
Drumser	18%	18%	Northrup Edw	50%
Dynal Power	50%	50%	Northrup Corp	50%
Dynal A. Substanc	50%	50%	Northrup Corp	50%

4%	45%	Union Carbide	11%	12%
9%	9%	Union Pacific	18%	18%
6%	6%	Union Corp.	17%	17%
6%	6%	United Fruit	12%	11%
1%	1%	USARAC	10%	10%
90%	90%	US Life	40%	40%
10%	10%	US West	37%	31%
12%	11%	United Tech.	40%	40%
2%	2%	United States Bank	10%	10%
		Unilever	32%	32%
20%	20%	VF Corp.	38%	38%
25%	25%	Walden Stores	28	37%
4%	4%	Wanamaker	54%	54%
7%	7%	Wal-Mart Stores	52%	52%
70%	70%	Wells Fargo	66%	66%
3%	3%	Washington St.	14%	15%
30	20%	Westpac	18%	18%
54%	54%	Whitcomb	12%	12%
5%	5%	Winn-Dixie	12%	12%
3%	3%	Wilson Dye	60%	60%


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THE TIMES FRIDAY OCTOBER 9 1992

Lloyd's brings in a heavyweight

Lloyd's is fast reforming its image, doubtless unjustified, as an inward-looking, inbred collection of small businessmen who might find difficulty in managing their way out of anything more complex than a paper bag. The most recently arrived infusion of outside talent is Brian Garraway, who as a former number two and finance director in the complex international empire of BAT Industries brings immense experience to the insurance market. BAT flourished during the Garraway years and, appropriately enough, he arranged finance for BAT's largest and toughest acquisition, that of Farmers, the leading US insurance group, based in California.

David Rowland, Lloyd's next chairman, has been at the helm of Sedgwick Group, the world's largest insurance broker, and also brings a great deal of high level corporate experience with him. Peter Middleton, newly appointed chief executive, can justifiably claim an excellent track record while running Thomas Cook. Even the names now have heavyweight representation in the shape of Neil Shaw, chairman of Tate & Lyle, who heads the Association of Lloyd's Members.

Mr Garraway's appointment is especially important to the image of Lloyd's outside Lime Street and possibly even to the future of self-regulation in the City. The Walker report and the Morse proposals for restructuring the market governance highlighted many shortcomings that have further tarnished perceptions of self-regulation post Maxwell.

Those who wish Lloyd's well will be content with the appointment of Mr Garraway in one particular respect. He is no pushover for any Lloyd's chairman, however forceful. Ian Hay Davison, a former chairman of Lloyd's, who came from outside and was effectively frozen out by insiders, said of the latest regulatory proposals that they could be hijacked by a chairman determined to capture the regulatory ground as his own preserve. Those who know him agree that Garraway is the most unhackable of men.

Unfinished tasks

Should Trafalgar House throw overboard its two top men in order to pacify the City? The idea going the rounds of lunch tables and watering holes is that in order to win support of professional investors in rejecting the tender offer from Hongkong Land, Trafalgar might be willing to remove its chairman, Sir Nigel Brookes and Sir Eric Parker, its chief executive. It is not easy to see who gains from this. Would it really benefit shareholders? After losing three-quarters of their wealth since the start of 1990, investors might possibly feel better simply because they had handed out some punishment. But where is the substantial gain? What is needed most of all now are strategies not bodies.

Here, the two men probably have one last duty to perform that would at least mitigate the damage suffered by shareholders. That is to dismember the group that they created and leave a viable unencumbered core with good prospects and a focused business strategy.

So far, the two knights have been stressing that the construction division is capable of rapid expansion. Even if true, shareholders should not hold their breath waiting for the benefits. Such expansion is likely to bring profitless prosperity. Margins are wider than and likely to stay that way for a year or two. It would be a far better use of the experience, skills and contacts of Sir Nigel and Sir Eric if they were to wholeheartedly seek buyers for the hotels and shipping divisions. Success here would stabilise the group recover some of the lost share value and enable them to hand over to chosen successors in an orderly manner.

Patricia Tehan considers the negotiations with generators that will shape a privatised coal industry

The shape of a privatised British coal industry will be wrought by the signing of five-year coal contracts with the two privatised electricity generators of England and Wales. Drastic job losses and pit closures will accompany the contracts, as a by-product of the intense rivalry between generators and electricity suppliers in the newly competitive energy supply market.

With privatisation of the electricity industry, which started with the regional supply companies at the end of 1990, the generators and the supply companies began to jostle for position. The number of pits that will survive will depend on the outcome of negotiations over the volume and price of coal between British Coal and National Power and PowerGen, which take 80 per cent of its output.

The generators, spurred on by the regional electricity companies, have talked down the price of coal for the five years from April next year from 185p per gigajoule to 150p. They plan to push the volume they will buy down from 65 million tonnes this year to 40 million tonnes next year and 30 million for the following four years, with further, smaller, price cuts each year.

British Coal's production will be cut from almost 80 million tonnes to about 53 million tonnes next year, including 13 million tonnes to domestic and industrial customers and to Scottish Power.

The outlook for the coal industry is bleak. By the time the slimming down exercise is completed, the number of employees will have been reduced to less than a tenth of the 150,000 miners that remained in 1985 at the end of the miners' strike. The number of pits will have fallen from 169 in 1985 to 20 or less.

In 1947, when the industry was nationalised, there were 958 mines employing more than 700,000 miners.

Despite the increase in productivity from 1.09 tonnes per man per shift in 1947, to 2.08 tonnes in 1985, to more than 6 tonnes today, the improvements have not been enough to make British Coal competitive when faced with cheap overseas imports. The effect of the slump in demand for British Coal output will be felt at all of the 50 deep mine pits



Chipping away the numbers: only a tenth of the 150,000 miners that worked in 1985 are likely to survive cutbacks

in operation. The number of pit closures necessary if the government is to be successful in its privatisation is not a new one. Roughly estimated, there will be 1,000 job losses and one pit closed for every 1 million-tonne reduction of coal production.

A report by NM Rothschild, the merchant bank that advises the government on the privatisation, that was leaked to Frank Dobson, the Labour energy spokesman, last year estimated that 14 of the company's 54 pits and 11,000 out of 40,000 miners would survive privatisation. The report blamed a fall in coal demand by the English and Welsh electricity supply companies.

Malcolm Edwards, British Coal's former commercial director, was eased out of the company this year for his outspoken views on a post-privatisation coal industry. In February, he gave warning that four in five mines would close and three quarters of miners would lose their jobs. British Coal supplies between 60 and 65 per cent of the fuel that is turned into electricity. This has shrunk from about 75 per cent in 1985 and is expected to fall further to 30 per cent or less by

the late 1990s. Electricity privatisation coincided with the discovery of large reserves of natural gas and the ending of EC rules prohibiting generators to burn gas. So began the "dash for gas". Despite questionable economic justification, generators and the regional companies are investing billions of pounds in gas-fired power stations. Their reasoning is the need for diversity in supply and the need to provide competition to coal in the power supply market. Mr Edwards describes electricity privatisation as "flawed" for allowing the dash for gas.

The amount of gas-fired power is small, but will soar when the new power stations begin generating next year.

The National Grid Company is forecasting massive overcapacity if all the planned gas-fired stations are built.

Regional electricity supply companies have signed long-term, often 15-year, index-linked supply agreements for gas-fired power, usually from suppliers in which they hold a stake. These supplies are crowding out coal power.

It is base load price averages at 3p per kilowatt hour compared with the 2.6p to 2.8p equivalent cost of coal-fired power under the contracts under negotiation. The higher cost of the power provided by most of these combined cycle gas turbines is seen as the price of competition. The higher power

costs will be passed on to the consumer unless the regulator steps in.

Cheap coal imports are also a threat. Overseas coal costs between 100p and 120p per gigajoule, against the 150p under negotiation in the new contracts. Generators are also building deep water ports and want to be able to import half their coal requirements from the mid 1990s. In January, PowerGen revealed its plans to build a £40 million coal terminal at Liverpool docks that would enable it to bring in an extra 5 million tonnes of coal imports a year from 1994.

National Power and PowerGen were negotiating a coal imports terminal at Immingham in Humberside to handle 10 million tonnes.

Since that fell through, this year, National Power has been seeking another site on the east coast. National Power is also working on a project to build a docks terminal to handle 5 million tonnes a year in Bristol. The terminal is scheduled to begin operation next year. National Power already has the capability to import 14 million tonnes.

On the union side, both the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, which helped the government break the miners' strike in 1985, and the National Union of Mineworkers are opposed to privatisation. However, the UDM has been co-operating with government plans, believing privatisation is inevitable.

Roy Lynk, the UDM's general secretary, believes co-operation is the best way to protect his members' interests. Last week, he met John Major to plead for a rethink on the closures, and this week he revealed he has the support of East Midlands Electricity for his consortium to bid for a slice of British Coal in the privatisation. Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, is taking a far more aggressive stance. Yesterday, the NUM urged miners to fight the destruction of the coal industry, while on Thursday next week, the union's executive meets in Sheffield to discuss plans for industrial action.

The NUM's plans to fight the closures were endorsed by the Labour party at its annual conference in Blackpool last week. But the government continues to insist that it remains committed to the British coal industry.

At the end of last year, Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, said there was no plan at his company to reduce its deep mines to 12 or 14 pits. He said: "We have every confidence that the future, though tough, will be better than that." Next week, he is expected to announce the closure of 20 pits and indicate another 10 closures will follow. All British Coal's deep mines will be affected in some way. As volumes continue to fall, imports increase and gas takes the place of coal-fired power, his optimism appears to have been misplaced.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Woodhead in the fox's earth

AS ROBIN Woodhead, 41, takes over as chief executive of Fox, the troubled London Futures and Options Exchange, not everyone is as gung-ho as the elephant-hunting lawyer about his chances of solving the exchange's problems. Woodhead's "watch this space" comments this week have exasperated several of his former colleagues at the old National Investment Group, who say Woodhead's record there does not make him the most obvious man to rebuild Fox's fortunes. Woodhead, it will be remembered, founded National Investment Group in 1986, out of seven regional brokers. In 1990, the group, which had lost a total of £6 million in the previous two years, was finally sold to Capel Cure-Myers for what was admitted to be a "nominal" sum. "Seven profitable regional brokers turned into a loss-making vehicle with huge write-offs for the original investors," says a disgruntled ex-National Investment Group man. "I'm amazed at his chutzpah and the way he is presenting his past achievements now." Others, more generously, say the 1987 crash was at least partly to blame for National Investment Group's demise and suggest that Woodhead, who set up the International Petroleum Exchange in 1981, will be better suited to running an exchange. "He was not the chap to manage a chain of brokers but it takes totally different skills to manage an exchange," says a more loyal friend. "To say that having

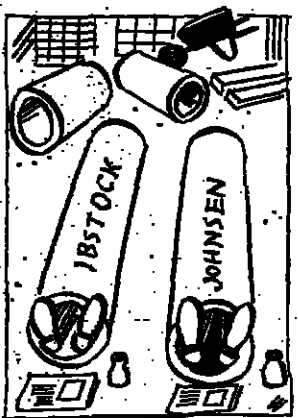
failed at the one he is not suited to the other is not a rational conclusion."

Flying high

KITE-FLYING may sound like a novel way of getting away from it all, but for one City duo it has proved more than a temporary escape. Paul Jobin, the man responsible for developing the Stock Exchange Topic system after Big Bang, and Richard Boissvain, 30, a former exchange account manager, quit the City three years ago "distilled with the yuppie culture". They have since become the UK's leading kite distributors and have now opened their first kite shop, Air Circus, in Bath. Jobin, 32, a kite fanatic, has been the UK "stunt kite-flying" champion three times. He admits he now earns a third of his exchange salary but insists "the quality of life is ten times better". Jobin's "power kites" cost up to £2,000 each and, ironically, some of his best customers are the "yuppie types" he once wanted to avoid. "Kiting is an extension of the hang-gliding and windsurfing mentality," Jobin explains. "City people love it because it's a terrific way of relieving stress."

Grubb in the net

SALOMON Brothers is rebuilding its London team and has netted another significant catch by recruiting a man with the name of Marcus Grubb. Grubb, a highly rated equity strategist, has been poached from UBS Phillips & Drew. Due to start on November 2, he is rated No 2 in the league table of European equity strat-



egists by both the Greenwich and Exel surveys and a runner-up, according to Exel, among global equity strategists. He joins Salomon as its main London international equity strategist, with a vice-presidency thrown in. Grubb, 30, began his City career nine years ago with JP Morgan, the blue-chip American house. At one stage, he headed a team trading Eurobonds, convertibles, asset-backed securities and asset-swap packages. "He is recognised as one of the top talents in the field and we are delighted he is joining the team," says Gary Wolens, head of European Equity Sales.

Ears burning

THE formidable Tory party female from Oldham who regaled conference delegates in Brighton with her economic views in the warm-up to Norman Lamont's speech did not know how right she was. "The Treasury is not listening," she proclaimed. Back in London, Sir Terence Burns, permanent secretary to the Treasury, was

in his Whitehall office and was, indeed, not listening—at least not to what was happening at the conference. According to his more junior colleagues, Burns, 48, had meetings all morning with senior mandarins, and did not even have time to switch on the television. Did he not want to keep an eye on events? "He has all sorts of other things to think about," his secretary reported. Were his meetings connected with the Chancellor's speech? "Not at all."

Over here

THE current issue of *American in London*, the glossy magazine, is advising Americans how they can best get a job in the UK. Mary Duran Turner, the writer, says medicine and the law are "non-portable" with consumer affairs, banking, and marketing the more obvious outlets for American talent. "As a rule," Turner writes, "people between 28 and 36 get interviews sooner... and no one has yet found a job through a newspaper or a headhunter." The determining factor, however, on whether the American gets the job often turns out to be money. The topic rather than the amount. In America, questions of salary would be raised at the initial meeting, says Turner. In London, they are discussed only later—and often with a different person. "Falling to talk salary would label you a wimp in the US; mentioning the subject will of ten disqualify you in the UK. Too aggressively American," the panel would say to each other.

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No	Company	Price	Div	% Yld	% P/E
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2	HSBC Bank	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
3	London City	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
4	Midland Bank	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
5	Paragon Bank	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
6	Prudential	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
7	Royal Bank	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
8	Standard Bank	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
9	Trust Bank	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
10	Windsor Bank	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50

BREWERIES

No	Company	Price	Div	% Yld	% P/E
1	Adnams	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
2	Beck's	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
3	Brewery	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
4	Carlsberg	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
5	Guinness	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
6	Heineken	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
7	King	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
8	Miller	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
9	Stout	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
10	Tottenham	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50

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No	Company	Price	Div	% Yld	% P/E
1	Amey	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
2	Balfour Beatty	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
3	Bechtel	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
4	Bois	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
5	Brace	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
6	Chubb	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
7	Costain	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
8	Day	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
9	Ellis	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
10	Farrel	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50

ELECTRICALS

No	Company	Price	Div	% Yld	% P/E
1	Amey	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
2	Balfour Beatty	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50
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10	Farrel	105.00	1.00	0.95	10.50

Prices close below best

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 5. Dealings end October 16. Contango day October 19. Settlement day October 26. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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High Low Company Price Div

KPMG data show 12% increase in receiverships

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE number of company failures is still rising, according to the latest figures from KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant. These show that 1,059 companies went into receivership in the third quarter — more than 11 a day.

The figure is 12 per cent higher than for the second quarter and brings the total number of receiverships this year to 3,301, which is almost 5 per cent higher than the same period last year.

The figures are a further blow to any hopes of economic recovery, since the summer quarter is traditionally a quiet period, when the number of company failures should fall. But the receivership figures relate to larger companies and do not take into account the hundreds of smaller companies wound up or going into liquidation every week.

KPMG's figures show that the South East is still bearing the brunt of the recession, and the region suffered 557 of the receiverships in the quarter, or 53 per cent of the total. This was 14 per cent higher than in the second quarter. The highest rise, however, came from South Wales, which reported 35 receiverships, up 84 per cent on the second quarter.

Manufacturing companies are still being hit hardest by the recession and accounted for 23 per cent of all receiverships, although this was lower than the 28 per cent share recorded in the second quarter. Eighteen per cent of the

failures came from the construction industry, followed by retailing with almost 11 per cent.

Tim Hayward, KPMG's head of corporate recovery, said he saw no signs of any end to the depressed conditions. "Unless the government risks its commitment to reduce inflation and introduces a dramatic reduction in interest rates, I cannot see a recovery happening in the near future," he said.

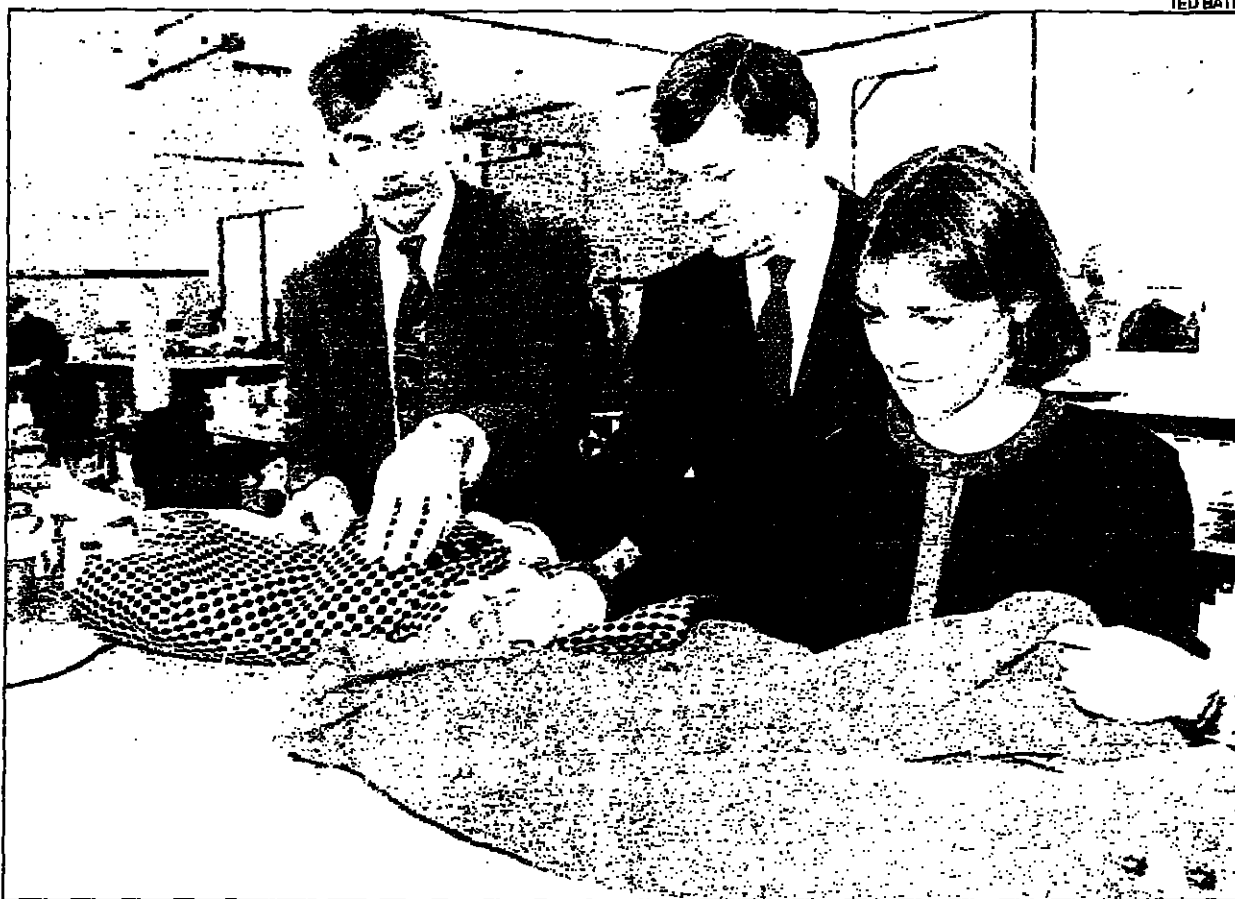
He said, however, there were signs that banks and receivers were trying to prevent healthy subsidiaries of troubled groups going into receivership. In the early months of the recession, all the companies within an insolvent group tended to go into receivership.

Now banks are trying to prevent this happening so that some companies can be sold as going concerns.

"Where security is based largely upon property, in the present depressed state of the property market the advantage of supporting any business that can be sold as a going concern is enhanced," he said.

Cork Gully, the insolvency arm of Coopers & Lybrand, was top of the league table of receivership specialists in the quarter, after handling 111 failures. It was followed by KPMG, which was appointed in 103 cases, and Grant Thornton and Ernst & Young, on 80 and 75 respectively.

Country Casuals wears recession well



Fashioning higher profits: Mark Bunce (left), John Shannon and Christina Challinor

By Jon Ashworth

COUNTRY Casuals, the women's fashion retailer that came to the market in June, lifted pre-tax profits by 42 per cent to £405,000 (£286,000) in the half year to July 25.

Turnover fell to £14.7 million (£15 million). The gains came from improved sales and margins and an absence of interest charges. Earnings per share were 1.88p (1.38p) and, as expected, there is no interim dividend.

John Shannon, chairman, said margins were improving in an "extremely difficult" trading environment. The company now has 157 outlets. Mr Shannon, Christina Challinor, marketing and merchandising director, and Mark Bunce, finance and strategy director, previously worked together at Laura Ashley. They led a management buy-in of Country Casuals from Coats Vytella in March 1989.

Little of the market launch is reflected in the results. The flotation occurred only 30 days before the half-year end, and the £4.5 million in new capital raised had only a small impact on net interest income. The shares closed at 122p, 8p below launch price.

Kraft gets taste for chocolate

FROM REUTER IN OSLO

KRAFT General Foods International, a Philip Morris subsidiary, said it was going ahead with an offer for Freia Marabou, Scandinavia's biggest chocolate maker, after an independent review of the company.

Kraft made its announcement in a statement to the Oslo bourse. It is offering \$1.5 billion for Freia.

One of several conditions in the bid for Freia was that if an independent "due diligence" review disclosed that "the Freia Group has incurred or may incur losses or liabilities not previously disclosed exceeding 878.4 million crowns (£37.75 million), then Freia and Kraft shall negotiate the offer price."

Kraft gave no details of the review other than to say that it was positive.

Freia shareholders will meet in Oslo tomorrow to discuss another condition for the takeover — scrapping the limits on foreign ownership of the company, currently one third.

Hershey Foods, the large American group, is also holding talks with Norway's Orkla A/S about a possible rival bid.

Opec chief predicts oil price rise to \$21

FROM REUTER IN JAKARTA

THE Opec oil price will edge up towards \$21 a barrel in the fourth quarter of this year, according to Dr Subroto, secretary-general of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The Opec basket oil price is \$19.30 at present. "Oil prices are creeping towards \$21," he



Subroto: winter demand

said, adding that the market outlook in the last quarter would depend also on whether those holding stockpiles of oil would release them.

"We are watching this. Usually they release stocks in the fourth quarter to meet needs in winter."

On Wednesday, the International Energy Agency predicted that oil demand in the West would increase by 1 per cent in the fourth quarter of the year.

Dr Subroto said demand for Opec oil in the last quarter of the year would be about 25 million barrels a day.

He said there were no plans for talks on the re-imposition of quotas following the July agreement.

"As long as the abnormal situation in the Middle East and the Gulf area prevails, then we are not talking about the quotas," Dr Subroto said yesterday.

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Making savings to the tune of over £2,000 a month sounds good to the Royal Festival Hall. They're doing it by using Mailsort for their regular mailing list.

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CANADIAN OVERSEAS PACKAGING INDUSTRIES LIMITED

(Incorporated under the laws of Canada)

PRELIMINARY EARNINGS ANNOUNCEMENT

Audited results for the year to 30th June, 1992

(all funds expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars except for the common share data)

	1991/92 C\$'000	1990/91 C\$'000
Turnover	C\$103,956	C\$106,604
Earnings before Taxation	20,302	20,113
Taxation	4,145	3,242
Earnings after Taxation	16,157	16,871
Less: Minority Interests	480	332
	15,677	16,539
Gain on Sale of Marketable Securities	4,307	3,215
Foreign Currency Gains	3,377	2,211
Corporate Restructuring Costs	—	(728)
Net Earnings	C\$23,361	C\$21,237
Earnings per Common Share	C\$1.33	C\$1.21

The Directors today have declared a regular dividend on the 17,578,125 Common Shares N.P.V. payable to Shareholders registered at the close of business on 20th November 1992 at the rate of 55 cents (Canadian) per share. The comparative figure for 1991 was 50 cents per share. The payment date for this dividend is 11th December, 1992.

The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1992 together with the Notice of the Thirty First Annual Meeting will be posted to Shareholders on the 23rd October, 1992 with the usual press announcement appearing the same day. The Thirty First Annual Meeting will be held on 1st December, 1992. Full details will be circulated with the Notice of the Meeting.

By Order of the Board, M.C. Johnston, O.C., Director and Secretary.

8th October 1992.

Suite 1212, Brunswick Square, Germain Street, Saint John, New Brunswick, CANADA E2L 4V1.

MAILSORT

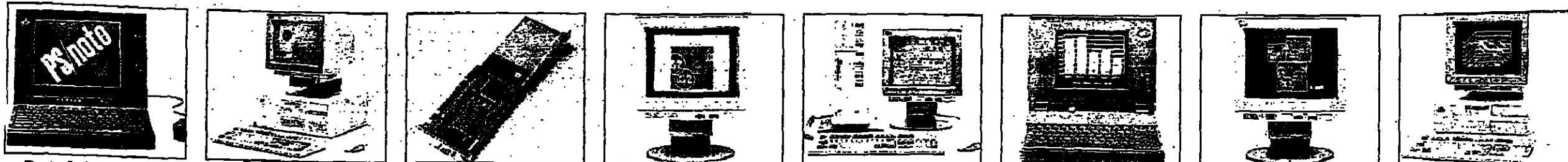
THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 9 1992

27

INFOTECH TIMES



Part of IBM's new range (left to right): Personal System/Note model 2141-182; Personal System/2 model 77; XGA card; 9515 monitor; Personal System/2 model 77; Thinkpad 300C; 9518 monitor; PS/Valuepoint 6384 model C

The computer company IBM has launched a bid to regain its dominance in the personal computer market, by announcing about 70 new models. The intention is to dispel industry criticism that Big Blue has a lacklustre attitude to PCs, and to win back a sizeable chunk of business from the "clone" manufacturers of South East Asia and the Far East.

"We have come out with all guns blazing," claims Howard Ford, who is in charge of personal computers for IBM UK. "Usually all our PC products are being changed, with new features, functions and prices. No one can now say that IBM is not serious about the PC business."

The reason for producing such a large number of products is that they must cater for the many different types of customers and routes to market, argues Mr Ford. "The PC market is no longer homogeneous. There is a vast array of customers with varying requirements. We now have something for everyone."

Models are priced from less than £1,000 to more than £100,000. There is a range of colour portables and a cheaper range of PCs dubbed Valuepoint. Many of the new machines are based on the powerful Intel 486 microprocessor, which IBM manufactures under licence.

In fact most of the technology is manufactured by IBM. But some experts believe that this is a dangerous strategy for any computer company, even one of IBM's size. Hardware manufacturing requires vast capital investment in research, development and production, but yields extremely low profits.

"The future belongs to the 'computerless' computer company," says Shmuel Halevi, vice-president of the Technology Research Group in Boston. By the year 2000, the most successful computer companies will be those that buy computers rather than

Who needs all this hardware?

As IBM attempts to regain lost ground with some 70 new models, Jane Bird ponders the PC market's future

build them, he argues. These companies will add value in the form of profitable software to make the computers perform useful tasks.

"No matter how powerful a computer you make, you won't get a big return, so do not make the investment," Mr Halevi says. His hero is Bill Gates, billionaire chief executive of Microsoft, who made his fortune entirely from software.

IBM recognises the need to transform itself from being a "box-shifter" to being also a software and services company. In a move aimed more closely at individual markets, its monolithic structure is gradually being broken up into independent units which have to prove their own profitability.

Last month the corporation announced that a wholly-owned subsidiary, the IBM Personal Com-



Shmuel Halevi: IBM should stop selling boxes

puter Company, would handle PC sales worldwide. Within this organisation, another separate business, Individual Computer Products International, has responsibility for marketing IBM's cheapest range of PCs, the Ambra.

"IBM is shedding its old structure and preparing to sink or swim," Mr Halevi says. "But I fear for its life if it continues its policy of creating more and more powerful machines. There is no reason for IBM to keep selling PCs."

IBM is not the only major computer vendor to come under fire from Mr Halevi. He strongly criticises Digital Equipment for spending millions of pounds developing a microprocessor capable of han-

dling 100 million instructions a second. Such investment is pointless, he says, when similar products will soon be available from specialist chip manufacturers.

Mr Ford agrees that it makes sense to buy in technology where possible, and that IBM has a policy of scouring the market for independent suppliers. "We buy in items such as memory chips, power supplies and computer cases. IBM does not want to be in metal-bashing." Yet its volumes are so large that it can usually produce components or sub-systems more cheaply than they are available on the open market.

IBM also needs to try to keep its vast manufacturing workforce occupied. Many of the 40,000 redundancies worldwide that it announced last week will be in production. One solution is to sell IBM's technology to others. "The

market for our products is far wider than IBM-type PCs," Mr Ford says. "Some components have been spotted in knitting machines."

Of this week's new products, IBM hopes that Valuepoint will be its killer weapon in the price war. IBM says it will reduce its price within 48 hours of any rivals attempting to undercut it. "We do not wish to start a price war, but we will certainly finish it," Mr Ford says. "We want the industry to know we will do whatever it takes to keep our prices competitive."

One innovative feature in the new "Thinkpad" portable is a pointing stick in the middle of the keyboard, said to be much easier to use than a mouse. This incorporates the industry's latest colour flat-screen technology: active matrix thin film transistor, developed jointly with Toshiba.

The established PS/1 range now dubbed "Easy-PC" (easy-peasy), is being aimed at non-technical customers. The PS/1 is ready-loaded with software, and no manuals are supplied. An on-screen "help" menu guides the user.

Watch for the message

Chris Partridge on the evolution of the telecom pager

This Christmas the telecom pager will be transformed from a drab, utilitarian object worn by plumbers, firemen and junior doctors into a hot-selling fashion item. That at least is the intention of Yves Farjot, vice-president of Swatch Telecom, a new subsidiary of the Swiss fashion watch company. His product — which he aims to put on every style-follower's Christmas list — is a combined pager and wristwatch.

"The strength of the Swatch brand, combined with the unique design of the product, will transform the pager market from a virtually dormant business into a booming mass market," predicts Mr Farjot confidently.

"There will be about 18 million pagers in service worldwide at the end of 1992, three million of them in Europe, and the number will grow to 100 million by the year 2000, when there will be 13 million in Europe."

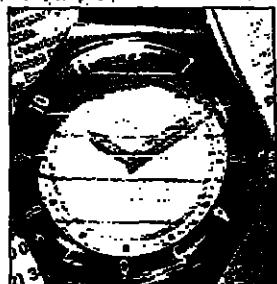
Until now, Mr Farjot argues, the pager has had a terrible image. Designs are purely functional, they are worn uncomfortably on the belt and are associated with people at the beck and call of others. In America, the image problem is even worse: they are often used by drug dealers and callgirls.

Swatch Telecom has been selling a wristwatch pager in Switzerland for some months,

and it will be launched in the US this month. To all appearances, it is a rather bulky analogue wristwatch, styled with Swatch's usual panache but otherwise unremarkable.

Inside, however, are all the electronics needed for a tone pager which beeps to alert the wearer that a message is waiting. In Britain, it will cost about £100, which will include registration on a paging service.

But who will buy a wristwatch pager? "If a pager is on your wrist you don't forget it and you don't have to worry about dropping it," says Mr Farjot.



Now Swatch this space: timepiece and pager

The drawback of current wristwatch pagers is their size, although the Swatch models are less bulky and heavy than the average Rolex. In America, where taste in watches can verge on the flashy, size is actually seen as an advantage.

One answer could be a new computer chip for pagers, announced last month by the British company GEC Plessey Semiconductors. This could substantially reduce the size of wristwatch pagers by incorporating the signal filters that used to be mounted separately into the chip.

The next technical problem is squeezing a better antenna into the wristwatch. "Performance is not as good as the box style pager, but researchers are producing designs that put an antenna in the strap," says Andrew Burt of GPS.

She worries that you haven't arrived.

She thinks you were due an hour ago.



She thinks she might have the wrong day.

She worries that she can't get through to you.

But your son's still on your phone, talking team tactics with a friend.



And she wishes you hadn't turned down this free offer.

If you'd accepted our offer, she wouldn't be left listening to a lonely engaged signal.

You see, a new service called Call Waiting — available rental free for 3 months — would mean she'd hear an announcement asking her to hang on.

At the same time her favourite grandson would be interrupted by a discreet bleep letting him know that another call was trying to get through.

A couple of pushes of the phone buttons later, he'd be talking to his grandmother.

And her worries would be over.

Almost like you having two phone lines, in fact.

Call Waiting is available, using a plug and socket style tone dialling phone, if you live in an area where a digital telephone exchange has been installed. (If you are in any doubt please call us free on 0800 800 848.)

What makes it even more attractive is that if you contact us now, a three month trial of Call Waiting is yours with no rental to pay.

So why not get in touch today? And find out how to free up your phone.

CALL FREE 0800 800 848 DAY OR NIGHT

FREE TRIAL OFFER

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I am a BT customer. Please send me details of the Call Waiting offer. My first three months will be rental free.

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Surname

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Postcode

Please send to: BT Call Waiting Offer, FREEPOST 800 (RS3333), Bristol BS1 6GZ. (No stamp required.) FTW 152

BT You're more than just a number

Digitally yours

Two Japanese companies have joined with AT&T and a small Californian start-up firm to produce "personal communicators" — handheld devices that combine the functions of telephones, faxes and computers. The alliance, which will attempt to promote an industry standard.

Several companies are designing pocket devices to serve as electronic organisers, communicators or information-delivery mechanisms, known as personal digital assistants.

School leavers who want a career in computing may be offered an old-fashioned four year "apprenticeship", if a

scheme being set up by the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT) takes off.

Companies subscribing to the scheme will have their trainees supervised by apprentice masters appointed by WCIT, and will have to give them one day off a week during the "indenture" for external training.

The WCIT, which was set up in 1987, is appealing for funds to support the scheme, which has so far indentured four apprentices at companies including Logica and Bull.

On his first day as president of Digital Equipment Corporation, Robert Palmer said he would cut more jobs in an effort to help turn around the struggling firm. The world's second largest computer maker will undergo a top-to-bottom restructuring.

Colour Notebook, £1695.

New Morse offer on A4-sized AST Premium Exec 386SX/25C. Backlit colour LCD VGA display, 80Mb hard disk, 4Mb RAM, 3 hour NiCad battery, internal data/fax modem and DOS 5.0. RRP £2165, Morse price £1695. Grey-scale model, 80Mb disk: RRP £1465, Morse price £1190. Prices subject to VAT at 17.5%.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY OCTOBER 9 1992

Culture Culture to warm up in style for American campaign

PAUL Cole's high-class filly Culture Culture should win the October Stakes at Ascot today in the care of her regular rider, Richard Quinn.

Already the winner of the French 1,000 Guineas this season, Culture Culture later ran the redoubtable Marling to three-quarters of a length in the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot over today's distance.

Interestingly, that was almost a replica of their running the previous season in the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Later that season, Culture Culture won the Brent Walker Mile at Ascot and the Prix Marcel Boussac at Longchamp, both group one races, within the space of eight days.

In Paris she beat Hazor, who was destined to win our 1,000 Guineas this spring at the expense of Marling.

But at Ascot Culture Culture

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

benefited from the disqualification of Midnight Air, who gave her a hefty bump when she launched her challenge at the two-furlong marker.

As she limbers up for a campaign in the United States later this year, Culture Culture obviously has to fear Midnight Air, particularly as she has to give her filly.

Also considered to be classic material early this year, Midnight Air then completely lost her way. However, her good second to Perfect Circle at Doncaster last month signalled that she was on the way back to her best.

For the unbeaten Jockey, who has gone from strength to strength since overcoming an

aversion to the starting stalls, today's race represents an enormous step up in class.

While conceding that another unbeaten filly, Only Royale, will obviously be hard to beat in the Mire Handicap even with 9st 11lb on her back, I still prefer to go nap on Plan Ahead.

By winning at Nottingham, Warwick, Lingfield, Epsom, Sandown, Ffos Las and Goodwood already this season this wonderfully tough King Of Clubs filly has made a considerable contribution to her trainer Geoff Lewis's record-breaking season.

With that good apprentice David Harrison cutting her light weight still further by drawing his 3lb allowance, those seven earlier victories should not be the end of her success story.

Significantly, Plan Ahead escapes a penalty for winning

an apprentices' event at Goodwood last Saturday. Normally you would expect a horse who has run so many times this season to go off the boil at this comparatively late stage. Crucially, though, Plan Ahead enjoyed an eight-week break in mid-summer so she will be fresher than most.

If any horse deserves to win the Mayflower Apprentices Stakes it is Olette, who was beaten only a neck by M. Fisher at the last meeting, but only after her bridle had broken leaving the stalls, effectively leaving her rudderless.

As Francis Norton, her unlucky rider on that occasion, is suspended, Jason Weaver, who was aboard Mrs Fisher, now gets the opportunity to profit again.

The Aim Aviation Nursery can go to Saina Dancer, who was only just touched off over a mile at Goodwood.

Morrison nominated for key role

SIR Peter Morrison was yesterday nominated by the National Trainers' Federation (NTF) for the position of chairman of the industry committee, which will have three seats on the new British Horseracing Board (Michael Seely writes).

If elected, he will automatically be deputy chairman of racing's new ruling body.

The NTF has also nominated Michael Darnell, a director of Tesco Holdings since 1975, for election to the board.

Morrison, aged 48, has been involved in racing all his life, both on the breeding side and as an owner.

More importantly, he has been a member of Parliament for 18 years, and a minister for ten. He was Minister of State for Employment from 1983 to 1985, and for Industry from 1985-6.

Peter Cundell, president of the NTF, commented at Wincanton yesterday: "We have got to feel that this is a positive step forward. Peter Morrison's political experience will be such a help in negotiating not only with Downing Street, but also with the Sir Humphreys of this world."

"As for Michael Darnell, he has been with Tesco for 26 years, and has made it what it is today. These are the sorts of men we need to help to run racing."

If elected, Morrison is keenly looking forward to the challenge. "The racing industry has an important role to play in our nation," he said. "I know how important it is for an industry to be properly understood in the corridors of Whitehall and Westminster."

"That is not easy to achieve, and only comes about when the industry is united on the stand it wishes to take, and presents its case in a proper and sensible fashion."

BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTPLAN AND SCOTMASTER

With effect from 9th October 1992 the rate of interest charged on Scotplan and Scotmaster accounts will be 1.90% per month (APR 25.3%). The creditor rate of interest on Scotplan accounts is 3.00% per annum gross, equivalent to a compounded annual rate of 3.04% gross.

BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Petardia supplemented to test Zafonic in Dewhurst

BY MICHAEL SEELY

PETARDIA, defeated only once when unplaced in the Gimcrack Stakes at York, is to be supplemented today for the chairman of the industry committee, which will have three seats on the new British Horseracing Board (Michael Seely writes).

After the winner of Ascot's Coventry Stakes had deemed his temporarily forfeited reputation with a sparkling victory in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, Geoffrey Wragg had said that the colt was likely to be retired for the season.

Explaining the reason for his £12,500 change of heart, the trainer said yesterday: "He came out of York so well and has been in such good health ever since, that we've decided to go for the Dewhurst."

"After all, he might still be unbeaten if he hadn't jumped a path on ground too firm for him at York."

Petardia certainly faces a stiff task as his likely opponents will include Zafonic, currently 5-2 favourite for next spring's 2,000 Guineas after that impressive win in the Prix de la Salamandre. "Obviously, he's going to be hard to beat, but we'll certainly give him a race," Wragg said.

Newmarket's group one seven-furlong test is Britain's most important two-year-old

test. In the past two years, for example, it has fallen to the subsequent year's Derby winners, Generous and Dr Devious.

As well as Zafonic, Fatherland and Inchinor are also possible runners. But no firm decision has yet been taken about Inchinor, who created such a favourable impression when beating Right Win at Ascot recently.

Fatherland is sure to be strongly fancied to give Vincent O'Brien a remarkable eighth Dewhurst win after his smooth success in the National Stakes at the Curragh.

Discussing the latest state of play and comparing Zafonic with Tenby, 8-1 favourite for the Derby after his Grand Critérium win last Saturday, Geoffrey Gibbs, the Jockey Club's senior handicapper, said: "At present, I would place Tenby a pound in front of Zafonic."

"This is because King Mango and Splendour were beaten further in the Critérium than in the Salamandre. But it's not so much what Zafonic beat, it's the way he did it."

By way of comparison, Arzei was assessed at 12/1 after his 1991 Grand Critérium win. Gibbs added: "From a professional point of view, it will be disappointing if Petardia won as his form is so exposed. We've got him on 11/4. But although Fatherland and Inchinor are both about the same mark, they are unknown quantities and still improving."

There is also a possibility that Lost Soldier, third to Desert Secret in Ascot's Royal Lodge Stakes for Sheikh Mohammed after easy wins at Yarmouth and Newmarket, may be supplemented. "He didn't stay the mile and didn't like the soft ground at Ascot," Luca Cumani said.

Wragg's Petardia is in good heart

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ASCOT

MANDARIN
2.00 Khatul.
2.30 PLAN AHEAD (nap).
3.05 Culture Culture.
3.40 Saina Dancer.
4.15 Prince Mercury.
4.45 Olette.
5.15 Shadow Bird.

THUNDERER
2.00 Khatul.
2.30 Only Royale.
3.05 Midnight Air.
3.40 Huckle Wines.
4.15 Prince Mercury (nap).
4.45 Olette.
5.15 Khatul.

RICHARD EVANS: 2.30 Fire Top. 3.40 SATIN DANCER (nap).
4.15 Whitchapel.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Saina Dancer.
3.05 MIDNIGHT AIR (nap). 4.45 Olette.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.45 OLETTE.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT
DRAW: 6-1M STRAIGHT, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 DUC OF EDINBURGH STAKES (2-yr-olds; £8,460; 6f) (7 runners)
101 (7) AGHAR (Chloe Almond) M. Almond M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
102 (2) CORRESPONDENCE (Stakeholder) J. Quinn 5-10-0 S. Quinn 55
103 (3) KATY (Chloe Almond) M. Almond M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
104 (4) RUSTIC CRAFT (P. Quinn) J. Quinn 5-10-0 S. Quinn 55
105 (5) WALL (Chloe Almond) M. Almond M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
106 (6) WINDHAM (P. Quinn) J. Quinn 5-10-0 S. Quinn 55
107 (7) PROXY (Chloe Almond) M. Almond M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
108 (8) CORRESPONDENCE, 3-1 Throat, 5-1 Frosty Morning, 7-1 Wicket, 8-1 Wall, 10-1 others.
109: PURE FORMALLY 8-1 J. Williams (14-1) D. Quinn 7-10

2.30 MITRE HANDICAP (22,541; 1m 2f) (11 runners)
201 (1) 220000 FIRE TOP (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
202 (2) 220000 SEAL (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
203 (3) 220000 SEAL (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
204 (4) 220000 SEAL (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
205 (5) 220000 SEAL (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
206 (6) 220000 SEAL (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
207 (7) 220000 SEAL (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
208 (8) 220000 SEAL (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
209 (9) 220000 SEAL (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
210 (10) 220000 SEAL (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
211 (11) 220000 SEAL (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
212 (12) 220000 SEAL (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
213 (13) 220000 SEAL (C.F.A.S.) (M. Almond) M. Almond 5-10-0 T. Quinn 55
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HEALTH p4.5

Clearing the
air over
passive
smoking



LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY OCTOBER 9 1992

MOTORING p7.8

Small and
green: the
new mini
Renault



Soap with no bubble

Boredom is a new American attempt at TV cinema-vérité

Channel-grazing on New York cable television, you come across some mind-numbing dross, but nothing prepares you for this. One of the public access channels must be allowing people to show their home videos, bringing new resonance to the word boredom. For a whole half hour, all that happens is a skinny girl fights with her father, and then arrives in an apartment full of other badly dressed youths in Manhattan, where they discuss how amazing the furniture is. The cameraman clearly has delirium tremens. The cast is spaced out.

Welcome to the first episode of MTV's new real-life soap opera, premiering tomorrow in Britain. As with most dross, *The Real World* is compelling in its banality, so long as you have the remote control close to hand for its longeurs.

MTV, the 24-hour pop music cable and satellite channel, was too short of cash to make a fictional soap opera about young people, and could not find any scriptwriters who were accomplished but still young enough to know what "Don't diss me, man" means ("diss" being disrespect). The solution was to select seven young people aged from 19 to 25, wire them up with microphones, send them to live together in a



Camera fodder: the cast of *The Real World*

Manhattan loft for three months, and film their every waking — and sometimes sleeping — moment.

The cinema-vérité approach has succeeded before. In 1974, for example, the BBC put a camera inside the home of the Wilkins family of Reading, with compulsive results. *The Real World* is not quite in that league.

For a start, this is not your average bunch of American kids. The loft occupants are all artists. Kevin, the oldest, is a "poet and journalist", also working on a novel entitled *The Diary of a Boy-Man*; Heather B (her full name) is an aspiring rap singer; Becky is a mordant singer-songwriter; Andre is a long-haired guitarist; Eric is a model; Norm is a bisexual designer of Astorurt hats; and Julie, the youngest, is an aspiring dancer from small-town Alabama. Two are black; all are egocentric to the point of nausea.

A soundtrack of Guns N' Roses, INXS and worse, lurching camera angles and swift cuts accompany the dialogue, much of which concerns who has stolen what from the fridge. The best bits are when the crew, ever-present in their own control room, catch late-night arguments which sometimes end as screaming matches in the street.

Sadly, the only in-loft affair was an off-limits one between one of the girls and a crew member, who had to leave. Julie and Eric do, however, start a sort of flirtation. She lets him eat her spaghetti. He goes to her hip-hop class. But when she climbs into his bed one morning, he complains about it at breakfast. *Casablanca* this is not.

KATE MUIR

● *The Real World* opens on MTV Europe at 4.30pm tomorrow.

What irks people about Peter Mayle? Did he build a high-rise hotel or open a fish-and-chippie on the slopes of the Lubéron? No. He only did what many would like to do. He wrote a modest little book — like Mr Potter and R.M. Delafield's *Provincial Lady* — describing a year in his own life, the year he settled near Menerbes, in Provence.

Nobody expected it to sell, least of all him. The publisher gave him an advance of £3,000 and printed 3,000 copies; he thought he'd be giving remaindered copies to his friends for Christmas. At his small publication lunch in London there were no journalists, no interviews.

Then, month by month, it was serialised in the *Sunday Times* magazine — "like being given millions of pounds of advertising" — and off the book went. The publishers kept running out of copies. "They would ring up and say 'We're having to reprint again,' in a rather peevis tone."

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Now he is spoken of as if he set out on a solo mission to ruin an area nobody knew about, as if he had been the first to sing its praises, as if he knew it would sell in millions. With hindsight, the timing was the key. It was 1989, just when anyone with any spare loot tried to buy a cheapo house in France. (There was a *Private Eye* cartoon this week captioned: "Thank you for not mentioning your farm-house in France.")

It is sickening, snobbish resentment, if I may say so after a summer of rampant Francophilia in these pages, that those who did manage to buy an old barn for a few thousand francs and enjoy long summer idylls among the vines and pines, now hope that their corner of Provence, or the Lot-et-Garonne, or the Auvergne, will be kept a secret from everybody else. That is, *au fond*, what irks them about Mayle.

He came to London this week to launch a new illustrated edition of *A Year in Provence*, with watercolours by Paul Hogarth, who brings all the local characters of Mayle's books, with their shrugs and Gaules and baguettes and boules, convincingly to life. We sat in the Ritz, elbow to elbow, hemmed in by the jabbering crowds taking tea.

Like all expats he hears that Britain is in penny, but here are prosperous Brits with planes heaped with cream-filled scones and a lady playing the harp while the ship ("What recession?") goes down.

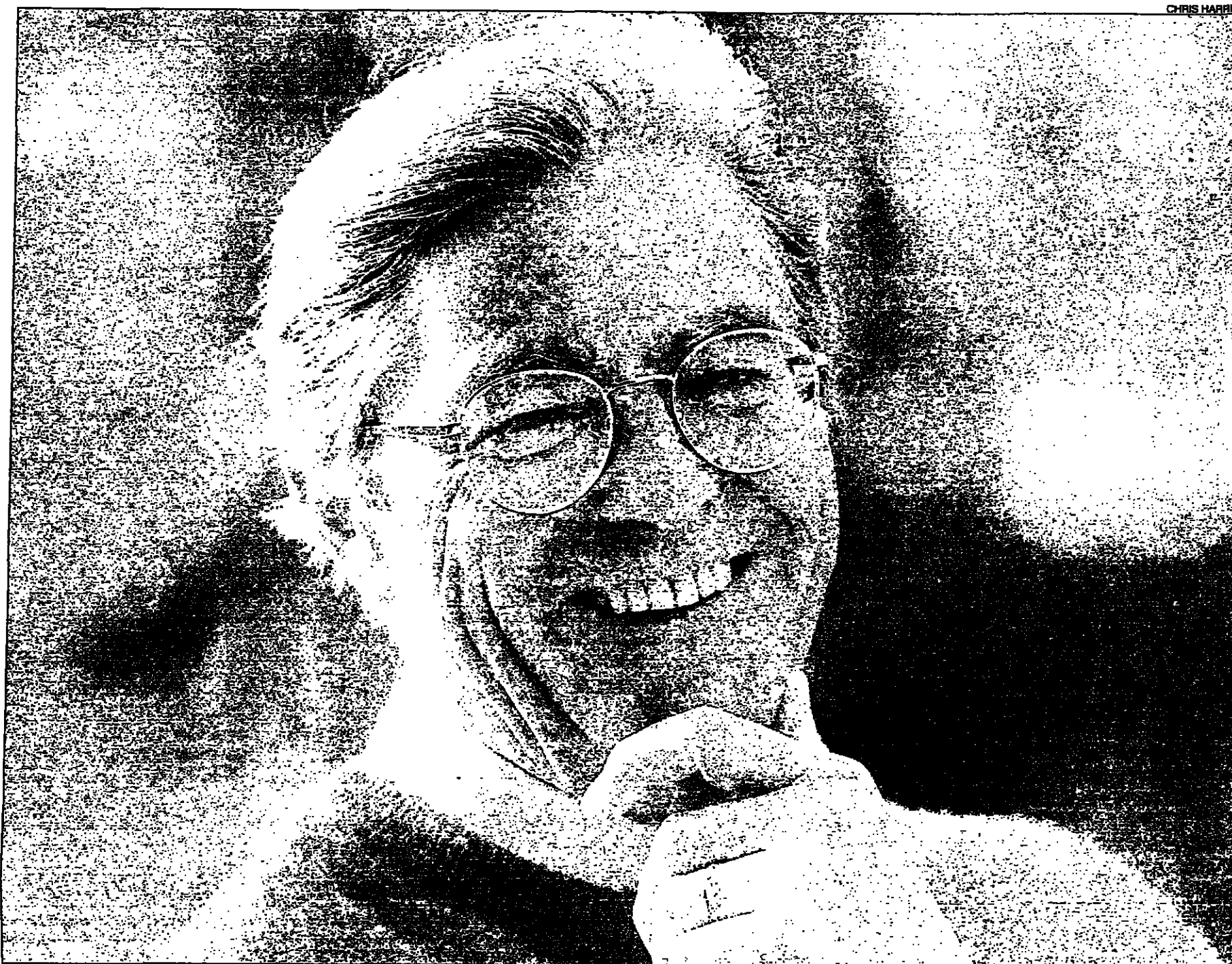
He is a slight, neat, hesitant figure, dismayed by the "deepening fissures" in his face, whom adverse comments have made defensive. Contrary to recent stories, Mayle is not saying *adieu* to Provence. He has not been driven out. He is absolutely not moving to California, where he was spotted this summer on a two-week holiday: he could never live in that smoke-free zone. A hotel he stayed at had a rule that if any guest was found to have smoked in a bedroom, he would be charged for an extra night.

Hacks, sent down to Provence by their newspapers to do stories about anti-Mayle feelings among the expats, are received with impeccable if weary courtesy by Mayle, who knows they will call on two British writers, Paul Eddy and Jeffrey Kime (self-styled Anti-Mayle Mafia) "for a couple of snotty quotes." "They have such a proprietorial attitude about the place, as if residence for ten or fifteen years qualifies them to decide who can come here. They're just glorified tourists, as I'm a glorified tourist... but it's big enough for us never to meet. They say I take no part in local village life. What do they want me to do, run for mayor?"

"Eddy says I've only been in the village once in 18 months: is he crouched by the roadside, I wonder, counting the times I go in and out of Menerbes? The truth is, we live outside the village, and I stay in the house a great deal. I walk a lot. I

An interlude from Provence

Peter Mayle is back in London — and he is happy to be saying only a temporary bonjour



An Englishman abroad: Peter Mayle simply did what many would like to do but he is spoken of as if he set out on a solo mission to ruin an area nobody knew about

shop in Cavaillon rather than Menerbes because the bakery in Menerbes works rather spasmodic hours. I notice there's always a glaring absence of French comment.

The hacks find that the locals hardly know who Mayle is: the book is not published in French. But they find the originals, like Georges de Le Pen-supporting café proprietor, and Thierry Fructus, and Pierrot the mason...

To me, Mayle will always be the author of a masterpiece of its genre. I refer, of course, to *Where Did I Come From?* his facts-of-life book for inquisitive children, which has been selling steadily for 20 years (far outstripping his *Provence* sales) in 17 languages, with cartoon illustrations of a plain, plump

meteoric enough to be featured in Jonathan Aiken's 1967 book, *The Young Meteors*, when Mayle had longish sideburns and Buddy Holly glasses. He invented the Way-In at Harrods. But his most famous slogan was "Nice one, Cyril", a chance remark added at the end of a day's shoot on a Wonderloaf ad. "So whenever Cyril Knowles scored for Spurs the crowd sang 'Nice one Cyril' — a tremendous triumph for advertising except everyone knew the line but nobody remembered the product. What is known as a 'vampire claim'."

He also wrote, while in America, the "Come to Britain" adverts, extolling the delights of thatched cottages and quaint pubs with mine hosts, and country lanes. Is this the due to his approach to the rustic artisans in rural France which he celebrates in such lyrical terms?

"I have a romantic feeling for Provence. I wrote what was true for me. I love the whole business of living there and living as the French do. It is a true reflection of my feelings for that part of the world, a very personal point of view about a place that suits me, and I am still very enthusiastic about it."

With his first wife he had three sons. The eldest, now 31, finds his father's life so appealing he has just written his own picturesque book titled *Bum Jobs*, after a decade of doing bum jobs around the world. The second marriage produced two daughters. With Jennie ("the love of my life", who has the voice of Goldie Hawn) he has two dogs — including the rough-haired French pointer, Boy, one of the world's most photographed dogs.

His days are quiet. He walks the dogs. He writes at an elegant desk made of a single slab of stone, works in the garden, eats once a day, usually dinner ("I adore lunch but don't like to get up until three good hours have elapsed"), writes again in the evening. *Hotel Pastis*, a comic novel, comes out next June. It's about an advertising man who leaves London and buys an old *gendarmerie* in Provence and turns it into a small luxury hotel.

It is a soothing, uneventful existence. Only the summer visitors, with their sealed wallets and prodigious appetites and lane-sleeping habits, disrupt the pattern. "We always say, 'Oh God, never again', at the end of the summer." Mayle's fellow expats compiled *The Sayings of Visitors*: "You've run out of vodka." "Let me know much those phone-calls to Los Angeles were." "I feel terrible watching you slave

away like that." "You've run out of whisky." What amazes him is the helplessness that comes over people who, in their everyday life, run businesses and offices and homes and children, but who arrive and say: "It's so wonderful to be here and flop."

"And that's what they do: they flop. They say, 'We know you love cooking, so we won't interfere.' One really wants them to go off in the car for the day. But we'd miss them if they didn't come."

At book signings, people sidle up to him conspiratorially and show him photographs. "This is my little place in the Dordogne. Having a great deal of trouble with my septic tank..." Mayle wrote candidly of the delays and frustrations of having a house done up: builders deposit a cement-mixer on-site and then vanish; the plasterer goes off skiing; the carpenter severs a finger; the mason breaks his arm playing football on a motorbike. But, as he says, at least in the Mediterranean climate you can live in a house with no windows and half a roof. Having houses done up is the same story everywhere, from Clapham to the Côte d'Azur, but a book called *Toujours Clapham* might not have the same allure.

By the time *A Year in Provence* came out in paperback, the boom had begun and Provence was going to be "the California of Europe" by 1992. In *Toujours Provence*, Mayle reported that the Lubéron had been featured in *American Vogue*, the village of Gordes had a carpark, luxury villas with alarm systems, tennis courts, boutiques selling T-shirts, and fast food.

Next February millions more will be inspired to discover Provence when his two books are televised in 12 parts, with John Thaw playing the part of Mayle. They have been filming around Menerbes this summer, says Mayle: "Nothing worse than having the bloody author hanging round on the set."

Locals may fear mass invasions, but there is not much for the masses there: no theme parks as yet. Local building restrictions and national park regulations are stringent enough to protect the area from going the way of the Côte d'Azur. "It's attractive to the sort of people who go there for the scenery and decent food and peace and quiet."

As for finding houses to do up, even he can't find one: he would like a house further up the hill with a bit more land (and a separate wing for guests) because he likes fiddling around with houses and gets itchy feet once a home is restored to perfection. But the crazy French law allows houses to hang around and rot while generations

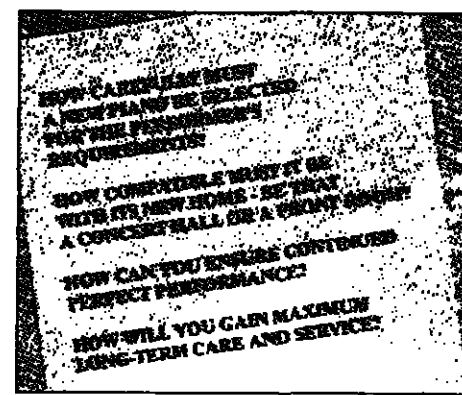
squabble. "Five of the children want to sell but the sixth won't, because the price is wrong, or they want to keep it for their children, or they've got indigestion... so the house falls into ruin."

What people really can't forgive is that he did it: left the pallid grey northern winters, and got rich by doing what anyone thinks they could do if they had an idle moment in the sun. They might smile to know his gravel drive was

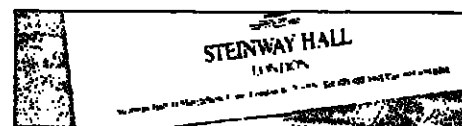
washed away in the September storms. He says he still fears "lingering poverty" and feels "a growing misanthropy". Hardly surprising. He should use, to his detractors, that useful French phrase, "Je m'en foute."

● The illustrated *A Year in Provence*, with watercolours by Paul Hogarth, is published by Hamish Hamilton, £20. An exhibition of the original paintings is at the Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, W1 until October 29.

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LIFE & TIMES FRIDAY OCTOBER 9 1992

Close encounter with a heavyweight

American sculptor Richard Serra has installed two huge steel monoliths at the Tate Gallery. Richard Cork reports

Running like a spine up the centre of the Tate, the Duveen Galleries present a daunting challenge to any artist invited to exhibit there. Lofty, austere and punctuated half-way through by an Octagon, this grandiose space might easily diminish the objects it houses.

So when the distinguished American sculptor Richard Serra was commissioned to make a new work for the Duveen, he aimed above all at countering the dominance of the building. Rather than adopting a dutiful attitude to the architectural context he had been given, Serra decided to deal directly with the volume and weight of the space.

After rejecting his initial idea, which took the form of a circular sculpture echoing the columns, he considered for a while the possibility of octagons instead. But as Serra explains in a lucid catalogue interview, they threatened to become "too busy for this space". He wanted an object that did not call attention to itself, and opted eventually for a rectangular alternative.

The restraint involved in such a solution is remarkable. As his towering *Fulcrum* demonstrated, when installed at the Broadgate entrance to Liverpool Street Station several years ago, Serra can be an intensely dramatic sculptor. Earlier this year he placed three immense *Running Arcs* of Cor Ten steel in a Düsseldorf installation dedicated to John Cage. Tilted at various angles, and activating the entire length of the gallery with their menacing yet invigorating dynamism, the entire work showed Serra at his most swaggering.

In the Tate, by contrast, everything is pared down to an imperious essence. Having entertained the notion of five rectangular blocks, placed at intervals throughout the space, he reduced the elements to three. Serra wanted to prevent visitors from viewing his installation as a self-contained entity, isolated from the surrounding architecture. So he eliminated the middle form intended for the central Octagon as well, leaving just two blocks.

There they sit, in the north and south galleries respectively. The size of the space around them ensures that we are encouraged to take the identity of the Duveen Galleries into account during our encounter with the work. They have never looked more naked, and our awareness of their presence is just as acute as our realisation that Serra has distilled his response into a pair of forged steel masses. Positioned about 140 feet from one another, on line with the principal axis of the space, their grand simplicity implies a disdain for the Duveen's pomposity.

No sculpture could be less rhetorical than this four-square assertion of what Serra's title bluntly defines as *Weight and Measure*. To approach the first block is to appreciate that he has staked everything on making the volume of the space tangible. About 35 tons of steel are resting on the floor of the south room, shored up by special supports in the basement.

The height of the Duveen Galleries dissipates whatever grandeur they may possess, but Serra seizes on that vastness and concentrates it in the bulk of his dour rectangle. Nine feet wide and 41 inches thick, the block impresses itself upon us as a palpable assertion of solidity. It does not, however, prevent us from seeing the gallery beyond. Rising only five feet in the air, it allows most visitors to peer over the top and gaze across at the other block in the distance.

The similarity of the two objects binds them together, even though we must walk right through the Octagon to reach the second piece. They look like closely related parts of a single sculpture, which also incorporates the void between them. Only when reaching the form in the north gallery do we realise that it is eight inches higher than the first block. By preventing us from looking over this sculpture, except perhaps on tiptoe, Serra introduces a note of finality. Dark, slab-like and utterly incontrovertible, this sudden presence broods over the space like a silent reproach to the verbosity of the architecture it inhabits.

While respecting the extraordi-



In the frame: a visitor photographs part of Richard Serra's forged-steel installation, *Weight and Measure*, at the Tate Gallery

nary restraint and contained strength of these industrial monoliths, I am not persuaded that Serra has imposed his imagination powerfully enough on the Duveen Galleries. Their height still threatens to overshadow the sculpture, which looks somewhat dwarfed by the bare interior. Maybe his dislike of this overblown location prevented him from reaching as confidently as he has at the Serpentine Gallery, where a concurrent exhibition of his "drawings" is on view.

Serra clearly felt more at ease with the four modest white rooms on offer here. Although the east and west spaces have been left almost as bare as the Duveen, the black rectangle isolated on each end wall looks more commanding than the equivalent block at the Tate. They are called

Orozco and Siqueiros, in honour of the Mexican muralists whose work impressed Serra when young. But their abstract stillness could scarcely be further removed from the boisterous figurative imagery of the Mexicans. Moreover, both rectangles occupy their spaces nearly as forcefully as sculpture.

Close inspection reveals that Serra has applied paint-stick to canvas spread on the wall, applying the medium with great vigour so that the surfaces seem to be smeared with sooty deposits. They look as rough, in their way, as the forged sides of *Weight and Measure*, and seem to have more physical substance than drawings normally possess.

The sculptural dimension becomes even more apparent in the north gallery, where two of the walls contain wide black oblongs. They

meet in the corner, warming a room which has otherwise been left empty. Their ability to bind one part of the gallery together contrasts with the loneliness of *Orozco and Siqueiros*. In the large north gallery, the two grand drawings are placed at a considerable distance from each other.

As at the Tate, Serra has here refused to mirror the shape of the room in a literal way. The circular ceiling receives no answering echo in either of these mighty rectangles, although one of them terminates satisfyingly in a corner of the gallery. Two for *Rushdie* is the title they bear, and both drawings combine funereal darkness with an underlying sense of strength.

While allowing a considerable amount of the Serpentine to remain untouched, he has turned the entire sequence of rooms into a sculptural

experience. Walking through the gallery is akin to exploring the interior of a Serra monument. He has taken hold of these spaces and made them undergo a metamorphosis — without interfering with their architectural integrity in any way.

At once disciplined and heartfelt, respectful and arresting, these drawings make handsome amends for the shortcomings of his Tate installation, even as they suggest how he might have stamped his full authority on the Duveen's intractable immensity.

Weight and Measure is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-821 1313), Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 10am-2.50pm, until January 15. Richard Serra's Drawings are at the Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, W2 (071-402 6075), Daily 10am-6pm, until November 15.

GALLERY CHOICE

● **TURNER AS PROFESSOR:** Turner is so generally thought of as an extreme example of personal eccentricity and untrammelled Romantic inspiration that it comes as a surprise that he was a teacher — a professor of perspective — from 1807 to 1837. The show includes lecture notes, the books he consulted and 20 of the large diagrams he used with his students at the Royal Academy, as well as many examples of his own works.

Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313) Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, until Jan 31.

● **NEHRU GALLERY:** The Victoria and Albert has decided that the only way to cope with a vast disproportion between the number of works in the collection and the number it is possible to show at any one time is to rotate and rehang. The Indian collection runs to some 35,000 pieces, so it is only natural that the Nehru Gallery, opened two years ago, should be an early candidate for this treatment. Most of the material in the new display, though along the same lines as what it replaces, will be unfamiliar to most visitors.

Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-589 6371) Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2.30-5.50pm, for about two years.

● **MADAME DE POMPADOUR:** Louis XV's most famous mistress took her responsibilities as a leader of fashion very seriously; an accomplished artist and musician herself, she sponsored the Sevres porcelain factory and was a great commissioner of painters and architects. This show, centred upon a group of paintings and drawings by one of her pet artists, Boucher, goes far to justify the claim that she played a key role in the development of the French rococo style and its dissemination throughout Europe.

Wildenstein, 147 New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 0602) Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, until Nov 6.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

COMMENT: MUSIC EDUCATION

Small price for excellence

A curious thing happened in the music education world just before the summer break. The acclaimed Centre for Young Musicians, based at Morley College in London, had the financial heart torn out of it by the pressures on local government. And apart from a few pieces in the educational press, nobody seemed to notice.

That is strange, because the place is exactly the sort of "centre of excellence" espoused by the Conservatives. A survey three years ago found that 75 professionals in 19 British orchestras had come from CYM; individual alumni range from Julian Lloyd Webber to Django Bates. The London Schools Symphony Orchestra, run by CYM, has been winning critical reviews for 42 years.

Providing Saturday tuition to around 500 mostly secondary students, CYM was once the glory of the Inner London Education Authority. It pioneered the string teaching techniques of Sheila Nelson, and offered instruments and

tuition to primary children from all backgrounds. Conductors such as Simon Rattle signed letters of protest when it looked as though it might die with Ilea.

In fact, so strong was the feeling three years ago that CYM was not only maintained but arguably put on a firmer basis. Inner London boroughs would pay tuition costs for the students (which can come to £1,000 a year), while a new Foundation for Young Musicians, which raised £1.1m over the first three years, paid for core staff, instruments, music library, and the special costs of the LSSO and masterclasses. The scheme looked secure, especially when London Electricity — its sponsorship sparks flying with privatisation — passed across £250,000 for the LSSO and allied work.

This summer the basis came apart. Greenwich, Camden and Hackney announced that they could not pay for students beyond the end of this calendar year. Much-capped Greenwich, one of the largest

providers, said that nearly £50,000 was more than it could afford. For the students concerned this could mean their musical education halts at Christmas, and they must return their borrowed instruments. For the centre, threatened with loss of perhaps a third of their intake, certain activities would cease to be viable. A domino effect could take hold. And the charitable foundation set up on the understanding that pupils from state schools throughout inner London could have access to it, might be in breach of its purposes.

The crisis has come at a bad time for youth music. In spite of the PR gloss of National Music Day, the reality is that in many parts of the country instrumental tuition is being stripped out of schools. One of the better features of British education, and the rock on which orchestras and the music business is founded, is being eroded.

It ought to be possible for CYM's finances to be sorted out. When schools have bigger



Julian Lloyd Webber: an alumnus of the CYM

budgets under local management they should be willing to pay for places direct. Pressure is growing to make parents pay something for the term-time Saturday centre, possible for middle-class parents, prohibitive for others.

Some MPs representing constituencies in boroughs immediately affected — Nick Raynsford and Peter Bottomley from Greenwich, Glenda Jackson from Camden — are pressing John Patten to find a solution. A greater range of funding options is being discussed with boroughs and schools, and there are some signs of a backing-off in Greenwich, Camden and Hackney. None really wishes to be labelled as among CYM's murderers. Equally, it is obvious that no individual borough could replicate what CYM gives to musically-gifted children.

But if British music is to have a future it is ludicrous that a place such as CYM should have the plug pulled by weary councillors, facing a long list of cuts, in a desperate attempt to set "legal" budgets before the summer recess.

RICHARD BOURNE

The oil companies like to see themselves as good corporate citizens, befriending the Earth, enriching local communities and — metaphorically if not literally — patting children on the head. Only the credulous, however, would suppose that the dirty business of getting oil out of the ground can really be conducted like a weekend camp for the Woodcraft Folk.

Critical Eye (Channel 4, last night) looked balefully at the reality of oil production around the world. The nastiest story in the programme came from the Niger delta, where Shell called in riot police to deal with what they expected to be an awkward demonstration by angry locals.

The police exceeded their brief by a margin that raised eyebrows even in Nigeria. By the time they had finished, a judicial inquiry subsequently found, 495 houses had been destroyed and 80 people killed.

We should, in an ideal television film, then have heard Shell's explanation. For reasons unexplained, however, the programme gave us only PR patter, smoothly delivered by the company's head of public affairs.

Was a chance offered for a proper response, and turned down? Or was the interview filmed in advance and slotted in among the scenes of devastation to make the company look silly?

The same criticism applied to all the errors and omissions documented by Critical Eye. BP and Chevron were put in the dock for the development of an oilfield in Papua New Guinea. PetroCanada accused of helping to destroy an Ecuadorian rainforest, and Shell lambasted for its behaviour in Nigeria and Gabon. In no

TELEVISION REVIEW

Crude injustice?

case were the charges directly answered.

Peter Skupholme, head of health, safety and environment at BP, compared the Papua New Guinea operation to "keyhole surgery", extracting the oil without raping the forests. The natives saw it differently: "The place was really quiet — no beer, no bachelors — a good place, quiet with everyone free to come and go," said Rex Sese, a youth leader. "But now it seems that trouble has come. Now the oil has arrived, all these no-good ways have arrived too."

Not only was the environ-

ment despoiled, but the arrival of the cash economy had set village against village. Three tribes were close to declaring war over payments for land used as an airstrip.

Here, it seemed to me, the oil companies were merely lighting rods for the discontents that accompany economic development. Unless primitive peoples are to be left to their own devices for ever — an unrealistic policy — then roads will be cut into their jungle fastnesses by somebody, some time. These roads may make

forest destruction easier, but where should the blame lie?

Whenever development takes place, victims can be identified: people whose views are spoiled, whose air is contaminated, or whose way of life is disrupted. It is as true of Britain as it is of the remote corners visited by *Critical Eye*. Without condoning the oil companies' failure to meet the highest standards, for the makers of this film their mere existence seemed an affront.

There will always be those who prefer no beer and no bachelors to the ambiguous embrace of change. But it isn't an option, not least because television itself has carried the images of wealth around the world: too late now to shut the door.

NIGEL HAWKES

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THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

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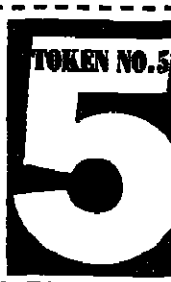
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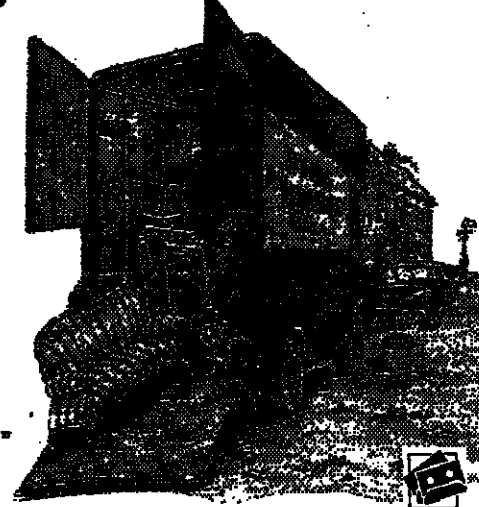
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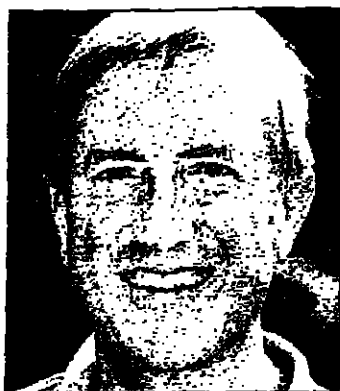
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Clearing a deadly cloud of confusion



Did Roy Castle
(left) get cancer
from passive
smoking?
Aileen Ballantyne
considers the
evidence

His face may be famous, but his feet — and his health — have made his fortune. He is an accomplished musician and holds the world record for tap. And he places a dancer's priority on health. Smoking is, and always has been, out. But Roy Castle danced and played the trumpet in smoke-filled rooms. To do that, you have to breathe deeply. And he developed lung cancer.

For years, the multi-million pound tobacco industry has fought the evidence that inhaling other people's smoke can give you lung cancer. The latest example came this week when the anti-smoking pressure group, Ash, with the backing of the government's Health Education Authority, published a QC's opinion that is likely to bring the first test case on passive smoking in the United Kingdom. It stated that any employee who can "establish the causal connection between his injury and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke" stands a good chance of successfully suing his employer.

The Tobacco Advisory Council, which represents the interests of the industry, reacted by accusing Ash of "attempting to intimidate employers with selective information". That is where Castle comes in. He appears to be living proof that you can get lung cancer from inhaling other people's smoke, even if you have never smoked yourself.

Castle's assertions that he contracted lung cancer through passive smoking were this week strongly endorsed by his doctor, Richard Ashford, a consultant cancer specialist at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, Middlesex. Dr Ashford is as unequivocal on the causes of Castle's lung cancer as any medical man will ever be. "For those who don't believe passive smoking can give you lung cancer, all I can say is look at Roy Castle," he says. "There is no doubt in my mind that his lung cancer is the result of years of inhaling other people's smoke."

Sir Richard Doll, the leading epidemiologist who first alerted the world to the fact that smoking causes lung cancer in the mid 1950s, has this week been promoting the fifth Europe Against Cancer week, which starts on Monday. This European Commission initiative to increase the number of offices and factories that operate a no-smoking policy is an attempt to protect non-smokers. Sir Richard said that in the light of where Castle had worked, constantly breathing in other people's smoke, the chances were that his lung cancer was due to environmental smoke. "This adds strength to the movement for non-smoking areas in public places," he says.

Experts in lung cancer agree that

although 95 per cent of the disease is caused by smoking, there are other possible causes for the remaining 5 per cent. These are exposure to radon or industrial toxins, and passive smoking. But Dr Ashford is satisfied that all other possible causes, apart from passive smoking, have been ruled out in Castle's case. "We all know that smoke is more harmful unfiltered than filtered and you are inhaling unfiltered smoke when you take in other people's tobacco smoke."

Asked why Castle should get lung cancer when thousands of others exposed to other people's smoke do not, he said it could be explained by each individual's biological susceptibility. "It is the same as saying, for example, that of 100 smokers of 20 a day, only 15 will get lung cancer and some of the others will die of heart attacks."

Dr Ashford points to the evidence in the Froggatt report — the most authoritative research on passive smoking — which was carried out by a team of leading British scientists and backed by the government four years ago. "Even on the conservative estimates contained in that, those regularly exposed to other people's smoke increased their chances of getting lung cancer by up to 30 per cent," he says.

The report concluded that at least 300 non-smokers in Britain die every year from lung cancer as a result of passive smoking. Castle has only smoked one cigarette in his life, at the age of seven. Both he and



A public danger: smokers are not only endangering their own lives by their habit, there is growing evidence that they are also risking the lives of others

Dr Ashford link the disease to his 20 years of playing jazz trumpet in smoke-filled nightclubs in the 1960s and 1970s, when he got his first break in showbusiness.

"I'm not blaming the people who smoked in these clubs for my illness," Castle said. "We didn't know the facts then, but we do now and I don't want young people to

remain ignorant." Castle, 59, has now completed a course of chemotherapy. Statistically, the odds are stacked against him: nine out of ten people with the disease die within 18 months of diagnosis. Dr Ashford says he is "cautiously optimistic" about Castle's recovery. Castle is now working with the Cancer Research Campaign (CRC)

on an anti-smoking video for schools. "I want to make it my business to avoid anyone else having to go through this," he said.

Gordon McVie, the scientific director of the CRC, said Castle's case blew a huge hole in the well-worn argument of the tobacco industry on "freedom to smoke". "It's one thing being free to smoke

in private, but it is quite another to endanger the lives of others who inhale your smoke," Professor McVie says.

One leading expert on smoking, Godfrey Fowler, the head of general practice at Oxford University, stresses that it is never possible, even with active smoking, to establish direct cause and effect between

the cancer and smoking. But, he adds, that was only because the sort of trials that would establish such a link would be unethical — a group of people would have to be asked to smoke for a long period, putting their health at risk, while they were being monitored.

Christopher Bullock, the director of public affairs for the Tobacco Advisory Council, says that the council was as sorry as Roy Castle's many fans to hear about his illness. "It has been said that his illness is due to passive smoking. I very much doubt that his own doctors have sufficient information to make such an assertion."

Castle is in no doubt. At his home in Gerrard's Cross, Buckinghamshire, he points to a series of hooks in the back porch. "Six nights a week, for 20 years, when I came home from playing in clubs, I used to take off virtually all my clothes and hang them up there because the smell of smoke from them was so strong."

Castle's only warning that something was wrong was a cold and a series of violent headaches. Each test convinced him he was fitter than the last until, finally, in spring this year, doctors decided to look for the most unlikely disease in a non-smoker: lung cancer.

Castle is now prepared to use every talent he has against the £1,900 million a year profits of the UK-based tobacco industry and their estimated annual advertising budget of £113 million.

Asked for a one-line summary of what he will be saying to schoolchildren, he said: "How about, 'Do you mind if I smoke?' ... Do you mind if I die?'"

HOW THE HABIT IS SPREADING THROUGH EUROPE

Every year, more than three million Europeans living in well-informed, highly developed populations, die of cancer, according to World Health Organisation figures. Cancer experts agree that such deaths are continuing because the smoking trends already seen in the UK (where people have been smoking heavily for longest) are repeating themselves elsewhere.

Much of southern Europe does not yet accept the dangers of active smoking let alone passive smoking. Addiction appears to start in men, then be taken up by women as their spending power increases, then it spreads to children.

The epidemiologist Sir Richard Doll says the disease is on the increase in southern Europe because people there are smoking more, apparently not believing the habit kills until they see an increase of deaths in their own communities.

Sir Richard says that lung cancer is already overtaking breast cancer as the main cause of death of women in Scotland and some parts of northern England. The toll now being seen among women in middle age can be traced to the romantic images of shared cigarettes in the films of the 1940s and 1950s, and the idealised advertising of that period. Also, more

women took up smoking in the second world war, when they shared the workplace with men.

In the UK, since 1972, when the recording of independent figures began, there has been a decline in the number of professional men and women who smoke.

However, although the number of women smoking in England and Wales dropped slightly during the 1980s (from 37 per cent to 29 per cent), women are not giving up as rapidly as men. In the same period, the number of men smoking dropped from 42 per cent to 31 per cent.

Similar patterns appear in other northern European countries but in many southern European countries between 40 and 45 per cent of the population smoke. In eastern Europe, where heavy smoking is newer still, as many as three in five men smoke.

Although attitudes to giving up the habit are changing rapidly, in Britain only adults seem to be affected. The UK, Denmark and The Netherlands have the highest prevalence of smoking in young women in Europe. In England, for example, according to figures collected by the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys, one in ten girls aged between 11 and 16 smoke.

The case of Cherie Piper, who is addicted to nicotine at the age of two, will not be the only example of a baby blighted by smoking.

She was a "passive" smoker while in the womb; her mother, Amanda, smoked 50 cigarettes a day while she was pregnant, and both parents continued to smoke heavily after she was born.

Anne Chardon, the director of the Cancer Research Campaign's education and child studies research group at Manchester University, says that as well as the effect a mother's smoking has on the developing baby, inhaling large amounts of smoke is sufficient for a child to become addicted to nicotine.

Mrs Piper, 24, from Stevenage, Hertfordshire, says that although she found Cherie smoking a cigarette she had lit herself, she could not believe it when a doctor told her her daughter was addicted to nicotine. "For two weeks, we hid every cigarette, but she went wild," she said.

Dr Chardon points out that a report, entitled "Smoking and the Young", completed by the Royal College of Physicians earlier this year, has shown that large quantities of cotinine — a breakdown product of tobacco known to be a sensitive indicator of smoke absorbed — can be measured

in the saliva and urine of children whose parents smoke. The report concludes that the total annual dose of nicotine received by the children of smoking parents is equivalent to that child smoking between 60 and 150 cigarettes. "You have to remember that that is a very large number for a small child," Dr Chardon says. She adds that there is enough nicotine in one cigarette to kill a small child if the child ate the cigarette.

The report says that more than a quarter of the risk of cot deaths is attributable to smoking by mothers; infants of smoking parents are twice as likely to suffer from serious respiratory infection; one third of cases of glue ear, the commonest cause of deafness in children, is attributable to smoking; passive smoking is responsible for at least 17,000 admissions to hospital every year for children under the age of five and the children of parents who smoke more than ten cigarettes a day are shorter than children of non-smokers.

Mrs Piper says she managed to stop smoking after realising what was happening to her daughter. Then she was involved in a knife attack at the petrol station where she works. The stress of the incident has now made her start again.

TOMORROW

In Weekend Times:
Victoria Glendinning
on the lighter side of
being Booker chairman

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ANTISEPTIC



One cup of tea too many?

TELEVISION viewers learnt this week that Inspector Wexford's problems in China lay in the hallucinatory properties of green china tea, which he had been drinking in huge quantities rather than sipping it between courses.

The plot suggested the tea had overstimulated his brain. A spokesman for Twinings, whose 18th-century door in the Strand is surmounted by a Chinese coolie, was offended at the suggestion that its "gungpowder" green tea would have produced such untoward effects. Tea merchants were certain that tea contained nothing more sinister than caffeine. In fact, tea contains caffeine, tannin, cellulose, nitrogen and traces of essential oils that give every variety its taste. Tea contains more caf-

feine than coffee, but the tannin, particularly if not precipitated by adding milk, slows down caffeine absorption, whereas, tea drinkers claim, chemicals in the coffee bean hasten absorption.

Coffee may cause indigestion, heart irregularities and insomnia because of the surge effect, but tea, which is slowly absorbed, merely stimulates the brain so that it is more active but not enough to cause insomnia.

Samuel Johnson found that tea "solaces the midnight". He did not suffer from Wexford's dreams but patients should note that many modern medicines, including the benzodiazepines, trisulon, Mogadon and temazepam, and some beta blockers, can cause intense dreams.

A sensitive case of identification

THE identification of human remains is emotionally important to relatives, and of considerable medico-legal interest to insurers and lawyers, whether they are the last tsar's bones, victims of an air crash in Kathmandu or Amsterdam, a body washed up in Africa or one recovered from a burnt-out room at the Reform Club several years ago.

Although the police in most countries have experts at the identification of bodies, there is a worldwide demand for the services of specialist funeral directors which have multidisciplinary teams ready to fly anywhere to help with identification. One is in Kathmandu at the moment.

Paul Knapman, the Westminster city coroner, says that in ideal circumstances five factors should be present to establish identification. Often circumstances dictate that only three or four factors can be established.

Recognition by somebody known to the person may be possible but is surprisingly unreliable because bodies after death become very similar. It may be too distressing for near relatives. Personal jewellery, watches and rings are particularly helpful. They may help determine identification, as may clothes, especially shoes, which may escape the full effects of a fire.

Dental records are often crucial but Dr Knapman says that, even when records and teeth are found, a complete match against an established record is only likely in 50 per cent of cases. In the rest, further consultation with the



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

dentist is necessary to find out whether any differences between the teeth found at the site and those recorded could be compatible with later changes made by unrecorded work. Fingerprints, either from police records or left around the house before an accident, are helpful. This was how the Reform Club victim was identified.

DNA matching is established but is expensive and comparatively slow. It can also be distressing and misleading, for DNA matching makes no allowance for feelings and can uncover unexpected adoption and sometimes a wife's illicit but concealed affair.

Dr Knapman gives a warning of the hazards of advising a relative to see a badly burnt or decomposed body. Some find it helpful as a catalyst for grief. Without viewing the body they find it hard to accept the reality of the event. However, this does not mean that kindly but misguided care workers should coerce a reluctant person to view the remains. Likewise, nobody should be prevented from doing so.

The decision has to be left to the person's judgment after suitable forewarning. Dr Knapman was shocked by the Nepalese questing to view strangers' bodies. He often sees in his work that there are cultural differences in the approach to death and what may sound ghoulish in London would be no more surprising in other places than the British custom of crowds gathering to watch casualties being cleared after a road accident.



Losses to be talked about

DIAGNOSIS of breast cancer is shattering to many women, despite an often good prognosis. Recent research from the Glasgow Western Infirmary and from the Christie Hospital, Manchester, published in the *European Journal of Oncology*, shows that believing that this is mainly due to a feeling of mutilation is as simplistic as it is unflattering to a patient's psyche.

The statistics indicate that the widely held belief that a lumpectomy, the more conservative surgery, would solve a patient's psychological approach to problems is unrealistic. The researchers compared 93 women who had had a mastectomy with 73 who had had conservative surgery. A year after their operations, the approaches of the two groups

to changed appearance, their enjoyment of their sex life and the incidence of anxiety or depression were not significantly different.

About a third of the patients suffered from depression and up to a half from anxiety, whereas only just over one in ten expressed great concern over their body image.

Earlier research has shown that for many women anxiety about the return of the cancer is lessened if they have a mastectomy.

The researchers suggest that the large number of patients with psychological problems after the operation underlines the need for organised pre-operative and post-operative counselling so that fears may be discussed and, they hope, allayed.

From Monday, the arts will have a bigger canvas.

The new Times. For all times.

THE TIMES

Once an often-tragic gamble, neurosurgery has been transformed, Alison Roberts reports

Winning the brain game

Even fellow practitioners of the healing arts have difficulty in understanding exactly what it is Peter Hamlyn does. "I talk to other doctors and they ask me what I do. When I tell them I am a neurosurgeon, they say, 'Why do you want to do that? You carry out 26 hour operations and at the end you have got somebody who can't talk or walk,'" says Mr Hamlyn, who plies his misunderstood trade at St Bartholomew's Hospital, in London.

Neurosurgery is a medical specialty uniquely surrounded by both gothic myth and high technology. It has been unfairly neglected, according to some, precisely because it is perceived as being complex and frightening.

However, discoveries about the functioning of the nervous system and new treatment ideas for the brain-damaged may significantly change the neurosurgeon's image and his practice.

Mr Hamlyn says that ten years ago some of the operations being performed now would have seemed like "magic". "Now the advances in understanding disorders of the nervous system are coming on apace. We will see neurology becoming a major part of hospital work, and start to cure diseases of the brain and spine which hitherto have been in

the hands of the gods," Mr Hamlyn says.

"But we know that if you treat people properly according to what we know now, fewer are left with the appalling difficulties that may be associated with brain damage." Such difficulties include paralysis of one side of the body, clumsiness and loss of balance, loss of speech or behavioural change.

About one million people suffer some form of head injury in this country every year: 150,000 of those are admitted to hospital. Added to this are large numbers of people coping with the often devastating effects of brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and multiple sclerosis.

"The commonest reason for disability in our community is some form of brain damage whether post-meningeal, post-stroke or post-head injury," Mr Hamlyn says. Brain tumours are the commonest form of "solid" cancer in

childhood; second only to the "fluid" (blood) cancer that is leukaemia.

However, there are only 132 brain surgeons in Britain, and 40 hospitals which perform neurosurgery, many of which are centres of excellence. Barts and the Homerton rehabilitation unit in east London are particularly well-known. There are four rehabilitation units in all, working to "turn the lights on again".

About 95 per cent of those who enter hospital with a head injury are treated by a general physician and do not get referred to a brain specialist, mainly because they do not need to see one, but sometimes because there are none available in the area. Those with severe injuries are moved to a neurology unit. For example, Leslie Crowther, the entertainer recently injured in a road accident, was initially taken to Cheltenham general hospital, but was later transferred to Frenchay in Bristol, where

there is a neurosurgery unit. Every British brain surgeon carries out about 240 operations a year, removing blood clots, draining fluid from the brain, and performing surgery on the spine. About 20 or 30 patients die after surgery. While there is no need for every district hospital to employ a neurosurgeon, the scarcity of specialists makes the job of disseminating new techniques and discoveries difficult.

Already animal experiments have proved that it is possible to graft good cells on to damaged parts of the brain. Such high technology surgery has not been carried out on humans, but has the potential to make "little bits of nerve cells regrow like magic", according to Mr Hamlyn, reversing some of the damage caused by injury. More is now understood about secondary damage to the brain when, for one reason or another, cranial blood pressure becomes too

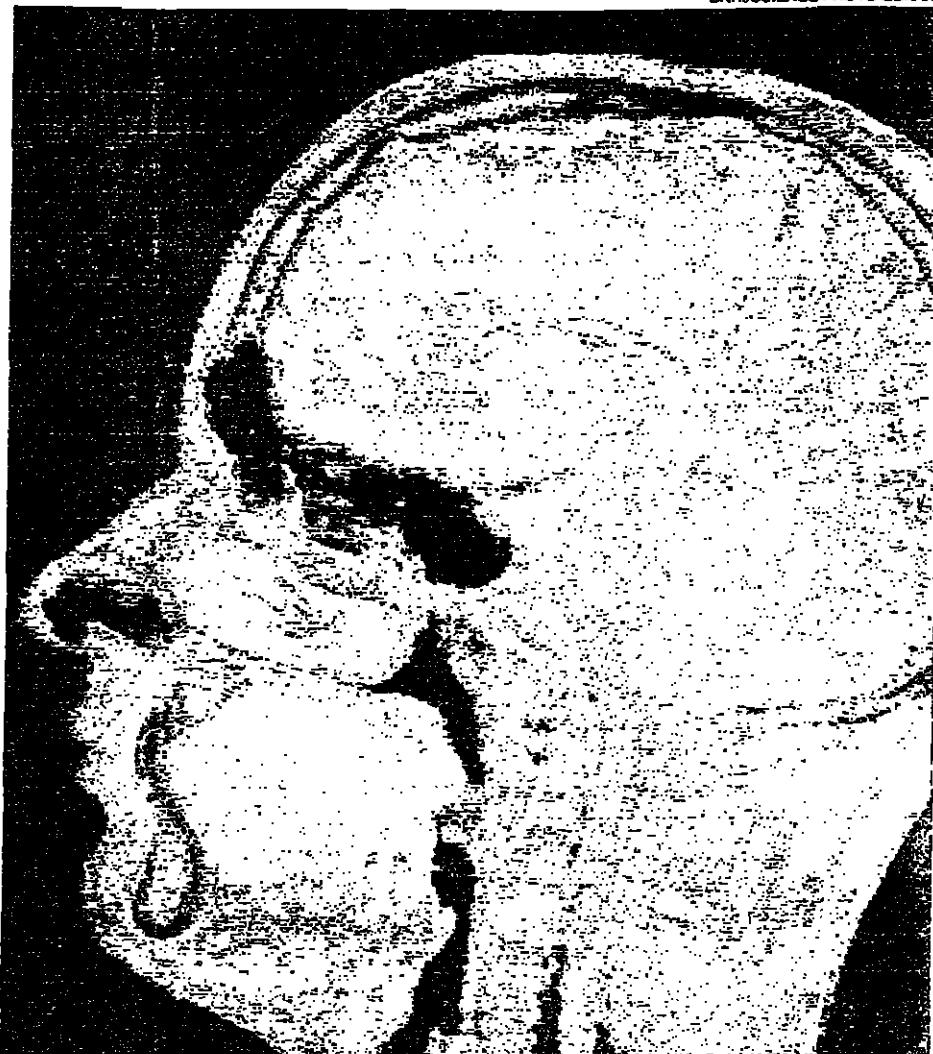
high. The importance of guarding against this, by constantly monitoring pressure, has long been recognised, but Mr Hamlyn says medical practice could be more effective if neurology was better understood by non-specialist doctors.

"One of the myths surrounding today's neurosurgeons is that they prevent people who would have died from dying, but that they produce cabbages instead," Mr Hamlyn says. "That is exactly what we don't do."

"If you treat head injuries with microscopes and pressure monitors you have fewer people in chronic vegetative states. It is the promptness of treatment and the specialist care that makes the difference."

Most of the high-tech equipment and techniques used to look after people with head injuries has been developed over the past 20 years. Computerised tomographic (CT) scans show the soft tissue of the brain itself, making it possible for a doctor to see whether a blood clot is forming. The electrical function of the brain can be tested using an electroencephalogram (EEG).

Such investigative techniques make treatment more effective and the new approach to accident care has increased the number of lives saved.



The world within: the human brain in cross-section, from cerebral cortex to spinal cord

PUTTING THE BRAIN BACK TO WORK

THE brain can be damaged within a few seconds of an accident, a couple of hours later or a day or two afterwards. The initial injury may occur as a result of deceleration or acceleration of the head, for example in a car crash or following a hard punch. This usually produces a "closed" head injury as the brain follows the movement of the skull, tearing nerve fibres, arteries and veins. The surface of the brain is bumped, bruised and swollen with blood.

When the skull is actually penetrated, perhaps with wreckage from a crash or by a bullet, the brain is exposed and damaged in an "open" injury. A "crushing" head injury is self-descriptive.

The fate of the victim is usually decided in the immediate aftermath of an accident.

The brain has either been damaged by a particularly severe injury to the extent that parts of it will die, or have already died, causing permanent damage, or the victim may have been lucky and escape with concussion or a small skull fracture.

In many cases, however, two further injuries can occur,

complicating the brain damage. The brain can be starved of oxygen, either because breathing is obstructed, or, if large amounts of blood are lost, because blood pressure drops. Then, sometimes months after the injury, the bruised brain may swell, and the tissue is squeezed so that blood has difficulty circulating through it. In severe cases the pressure becomes so high that blood flow stops altogether and the brain dies. Blood clots, formed when blood leaks out of the brain, can grow over a period of time and can compress and damage the brain.

Recovery after brain surgery is necessarily slow, often a matter of learning and re-education as the brain reorganises itself and functional areas take over from areas which no longer work. Rehabilitation programmes can take years, perhaps requiring the patient to learn to read or write again.

People have continued to improve for up to ten years after suffering a brain-damage injury, as brain cells suddenly begin to work again. But personality change, poor memory and concentration are often irreversible.

Anguish that can't wait

Inflammatory bowel disease means misery for tens of thousands

There are very few "taboo" diseases left. Even cancer and Aids are freely discussed. But, despite the fact that an estimated 80,000 people in Britain suffer from it, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is very much a closed book.

Not any longer. The two diseases covered by IBD — ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease — are the subject of *Living with IBD*, a useful booklet published by the National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease (NACC). I know it's useful, because I have suffered from IBD for nearly 20 years.

What causes IBD? Diet and stress, the usual culprits, have been ruled out. Research has not come up with a solution, despite the NACC donating £1 million to research over the past eight years. Crohn's disease — a thickening of the colon causing constipation and diarrhoea — is on the increase. In ulcerative colitis the colon becomes ulcerated, leading to blood, mucus, pain and diarrhoea. I say diarrhoea, but the unmentionable aspect of these two diseases is the fact that sufferers are constantly frightened of having "accidents", and not being able to get to a lavatory in time.

In a survey it was found that nearly half of people suffering from IBD are anxious about this. As a result, the NACC has issued a "Can't Wait" card to members which can be produced to sympathetic shopkeepers who will then, in theory, usher you to the nearest lavatory. But members are often too embarrassed to produce the card.

My worst moments in this regard have included pushing to the front of a 20-strong queue for the lavatory at the

Ideal Home Exhibition — too late — and spending half an hour trying to tidy myself up. Then there was the time I had a touch-down at Los Angeles airport when I burst from my window-seat, ran past the stewardesses, and only just made it to the loo.

Both ulcerative colitis and Crohn's are chronic once you've got them, they never go away. In the past, the diseases could be life-threatening, but now they can usually be kept below boiling point with daily drugs. Because they are chronic, mysterious, and not the subject of polite conversation, it is rare to find anyone who understands the problem.

"Can't you hang on a little longer?" is the sort of remark a friend will make, as if you were a complaining five-year-old. Or, worse: "Have you tried acupuncture, diet, homeopathy...?" Again, as if you either hadn't tried or hadn't discovered that complementary medicine may sometimes relieve the stress that in some cases exacerbates the condition, but can't cure it.

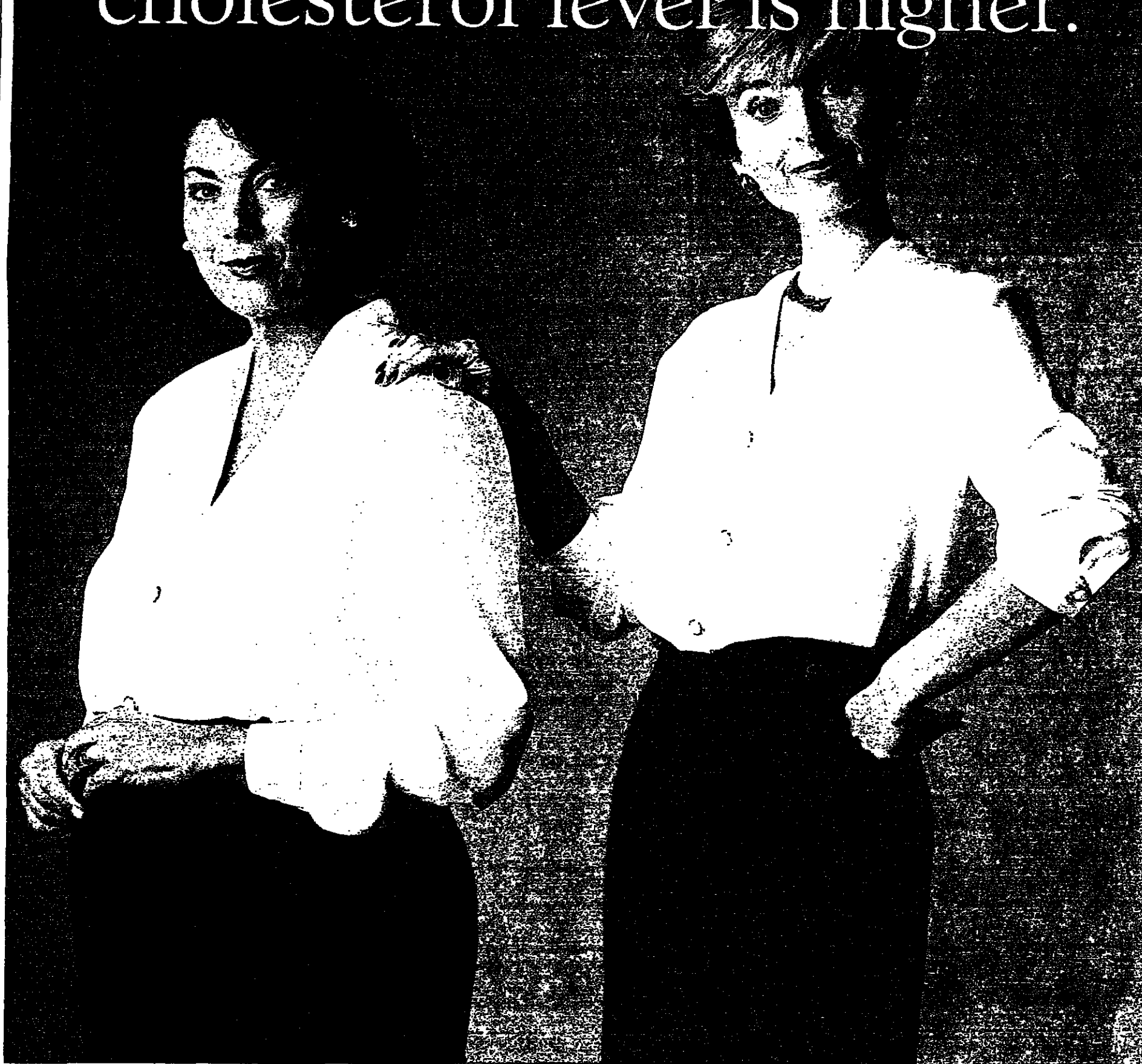
Discussing a topic like this is horribly embarrassing, even with a doctor. The tests are revolting, involving cameras being sneaked up you in unspeakable places, and the talk is all of stools and motions and enemas. The NACC has helped enormously, trying to explain the inexplicable to sufferers and their friends and families. It is also a great comfort to know that there are other people who sometimes "just can't wait".

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

● NACC, 98a London Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 1NX. Send an s.a.e. for *Living with IBD* and membership form.

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It's impossible to tell whose cholesterol level is higher.

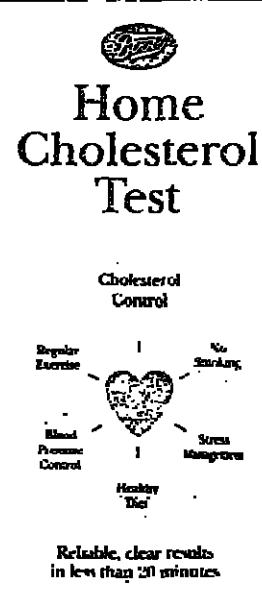


This simple test will tell you yours.

You'd be forgiven for assuming that the slimmer, fitter-looking woman on the right has a lower cholesterol level.

The fact is you can't tell by looking and the only way to know for sure is to have a simple blood test.

You can either make an appointment with your doctor. Or now you can do it yourself with the new Boots Home Cholesterol Test.



With the kit comes a 'Caring for your Heart' leaflet which puts the results of your Cholesterol test into context.

The instruction leaflet has a Freephone Helpline to give you more information if required.

It only takes 20 minutes, it's easy to use and importantly it's the most accurate home cholesterol test you can buy.



A golden age of grumpies

When youth turns to middle age, and spending power matches waistlines, admen scent rich pickings, Kate Muir reports

The principal objection to old age is that there is no future in it. Someone once said: "Now, perspicacious Americans are realising how wrong that was. The new big spenders, the darlings of marketing and advertising departments throughout the country, are the grumpies — grown-up urban mature professionals. The future for any successful company lies in divesting the grumpies of their vast disposable income."

Grumpiehood is what happens when yuppies start to decay. The affluent youth market which gobbled GTIs and BMWs, mobile phones, CD systems, Paul Smith and Azzedine Alaïa is slumping and sagging. It suddenly feels safer with a Volvo and an 18-hour girdle, a trend that manufacturers cannot ignore. The population bulge of the 80 million baby boomers born between 1946 and 1964 is described by demographers as the "pig in the python". Yuppies were, of course, the greediest part of the pig, and there are great hopes for grumpies. By the year 2000, households headed by those aged under 35 should have shrunk by 18 per cent, while the 35 to 55 age group should have grown by 28 per cent. Baby boomers and their rich sub-set of grumpies make up a third of the American population.

The term grumpie was suggested by demographers and has just started to gain currency. Even before grumpies were invented, forward-thinking manufacturers were pandering to them. Last year, Lee Jeans started an advertising campaign which showed forthright men pathetically trying to squeeze into their old jeans, with a voiceover: "Forget about cholesterol. It's your jeans that have been cutting off your circulation."

Lee then supplied baggy jeans. Levi Strauss & Co have brought in "relaxed fit" jeans aimed at older people. The Gap has "easy fit". Jeans companies realised that six out of ten of their buyers were over 25. "We had aimed at the hip and trendier younger market, and we found that we were alienating our prime consumers who were 25 to 40 years old," a Lee spokesman says.

The key to exploiting the grumpies is to remember that they still believe they are young, despite physical evidence to the contrary. Ross Goldstein, a psychologist at the Generation Insights consultancy in

San Francisco, says: "Although the advertising is aiming at a middle-aged market, advertisers can't forget this generation is rebellious, youthful, experimental and liberal by nature. They will redefine this stage of life for everyone else."

The model in the Oil of Olay (Ulay in the UK) television advertisement announces her refusal to grow old gracefully. "I intend to fight it every step of the way," she says smugly. Sales of "no-line" bifocals are up, so the telltale sign of weakening eye focus is hidden. Plastic surgery patients are getting younger. A surgeon at the Centre for Human Appearance in Philadelphia says: "We mostly used to get people in their fifties wanting facelifts. Now we're starting to see women as young as 35 coming in for eye tucks." For men, hair grafts, waxes and transplants to cover baldness are increasingly in demand.

Models in, or near, their forties such as Lisa Kelly for Calvin Klein, Isabella Rossellini and Catherine Deneuve are increasingly being used for magazine advertising. Jane Fitzgibbon of Ogilvy & Mather's TrendSights division in New York points to the endless search for an anti-wrinkle cream that works. "Grumpies are educated. They know what they're buying, yet they allow manufacturers to pitch them therapy as much as beauty with these skin creams."

Victoria's Secret, a nationwide lingerie company, now does girdles by mail order so grumpies and fannies do not have to make their purchases in public. Nor are "girdles" referred to as such, with their iron-clad 1950s implications. "Body shaper" is the preferred term, although "hip dip" and "high slimmer" are also accepted. Done in bright Lycra rather than sticking plaster-coloured elastic, the girdle loses its stigma.

George Simonton, a designer and a lecturer at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology, claims that some manufacturers of classy clothes are "re-sizing", labelling what used to be a size 14 as a 12, so those who have gained too well are not made aware of the fact.

The deviousness of those courting grumpies and boomers knows no bounds. RJR Nabisco, which makes the popular Oreo Cookies — choco-



Model grumpies: Catherine Deneuve and (inset) Lauren Hutton

late cream sandwich biscuits — has brought out mini-Oreos so boomers can have a taste of their childhood without fear. This move on nostalgic but diet-conscious adults was discussed in the *Chicago Tribune* by Phil Lempert, a food industry analyst. He said: "We baby boomers feel real guilty eating Oreos. But if someone came over with a bowl of mini-Oreos, we would take one, and then maybe four or five. It is our perception that, well, we can fit this into a healthy diet."

America takes its generational analysis seriously. There is a monthly

magazine called *The Boomer Report*, boomer-specialists at most large advertising agencies, and in Irving, Texas, the American Association of Boomers (AAB).

"After the Catholic church and the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons), boomers are the biggest lobbying group," says boomer-in-chief Karen Meredith. She predicts that all boomers, grumpie or not, will be increasingly obsessed with health, appearance and fitness to a far greater extent than their parents' generation.

Consumer lust for materialism will turn into lust for fitness equipment and health foods. Specialised walking shoes are now selling twice as well as running shoes. Dr Goldstein says: "There really is a back to basics movement. Grumpies are beginning to appreciate the simpler things in life, partly because people's priorities change when they reach middle age, and partly because of the recession. Of course, most normal people had already invested in the simple things of life. That was their life. The grumpies are just buying their way into it a bit late."

because they are on the cutting edge, in terms of purchasing and controlling media and advertising themselves, their image predominates.

Although disparaging of the negative-sounding grumpie, Ms Meredith does admit that the trend will grow and grow. "Boomers are like a backward wave, and the smallest end of the population is now reaching 45, but the vast majority are still in their early thirties. That said, whatever the older end does has so far been an



accurate predictor for the behaviour of those who follow."

Grumpies will never be quite as spendthrift as yuppies, however. "In their late thirties or early forties, they are increasingly burdened by the demands of their own parents, while they still have children or even babies of their own," Ms Meredith says. She predicts that all boomers, grumpie or not, will be increasingly obsessed with health, appearance and fitness to a far greater extent than their parents' generation.

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Novel idea, may blossom

After Interflora comes Interbook. Now people can say it with words

Hard though it may be to accept, given the somnolent horde of couch potatoes, the grim legions religiously moving their lips as they trace their tortured path across a printed page, and those diehards who refuse to accept that "book" is not in fact a misspelling of "magazine", we are, so statistics declare, a nation of literates.

Super-literates even. Other, inevitably, than the Germans, we read more books, buy more books and generally contribute more to the erosion of the planet's forests than any other nation in Europe. Count them: 525 million of the things cross the country's bookshop counters every year. That is an average of 9.5 books per person.

A good proportion of those purchases are delivered as gifts. And why not they are easy to wrap, last longer than a pair of socks, and confer kudos on your coffee table. Which makes it reasonably surprising, one might feel, that it has taken until now for some smart entrepreneur to come up with Interbook, the gift service that, as its slogan states, shamelessly poaching from the florists, "says it with words". Or to sidestep the PR giftz, what we have here is Interflora not for flowers, but fiction. Not to mention non-fiction, reference books, cook books, travel books and more.

If this all smacks somewhat of niche marketing, it is 1980s, then, the man behind Interbook, Jeremy Green, a veteran of the property business, would seem to fit the bill. Faced with a mounting recession, Mr Green decided that rather than "wait for the property market to get itself together", he would make a move even if his clients wouldn't. What people wanted, he reasoned, was a gift, and not just a here today binned tomorrow gift.

If books appeared as the perfect gift, Interflora ranked as the ideal marketing scheme. You ring 'em, they bring 'em. Moreover, words

have definite advantages over plants. They may not smell as nice, nor often look remotely as pretty, but they do run and run. "They do not," points out Mr Green, stating the obvious but hopefully the commercial too, "wilt or fade."

Put together by a group of private investors, tied into but in no way backed by Interflora, Interbook (WH Smith's wholesale Midlands megastore, Interbook offers a list of 8,000 mainstream titles at prices ranging from 65p to £85. Call them up any day, any hour of the 24: they suggest, you invest, a discreet murreur of your credit card number and for the bookshop price plus £4.99 for next day, £4.25 for three-day delivery, up to £4.25 for a book gift-wrapped with a greetings card and a laser printed message that can double as a bookplate.

The publishers seem enthusiastic. David Campbell, whose elegantly revamped Everyman Library appeared with much fanfare last year, calls it "a brilliant idea, there is simply no better present than a well-chosen book", and wonders only why no one had not thought of it all up before. "After all, what could be better than getting a present of one's favourite Dickens or Hardy?"

Laura Beckwith, at Kyle Cathie Books, is similarly enthused — "Anything that improves the book market has to be applauded."

The traditional market is closing down, stalls every day and publishers are paying the price for the spendthrift 1980s. Interbook with its no thrills, no romance approach, might just give the trade the fillip Mr Green is promising. Goodness knows, it certainly needs. "Nobody thought this year could be worse than last," Ms Beckwith says. "Nobody's so sure now."

JONATHAN GREEN
Interbook: 081-200 1515 from tomorrow

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

AUDI AUTHORISED DEALERS

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Two friends for the environment

Volvo has produced a car powered by gas and battery, Renault has decided that small is desirable. **Vaughan Freeman** looks at two green approaches

Designers struggling to meet demands for more environmentally friendly cars are split. While many manufacturers are scaling down their vehicles to make smaller versions of conventional designs, others are evolving new cars without the petrol engine. The alternative approaches are best reflected by two vehicles introduced at this week's Paris Motor Show.

Volvo took the wraps off its Environmental Concept Car, a revolutionary though realistic family car with the emphasis on environmental motoring. At the other extreme, Renault showed off its tiny Twingo mini car.

The Volvo is the more radical development, a car powered by a hybrid gas turbine and electric motor system. In town traffic, the five-door four-seater saloon runs off its nickel cadmium batteries so that there are no pollution emissions.

The batteries can be easily recharged from a domestic power source taking between six and 15 hours. The 120-volt batteries give a 0-60mph time of 22 seconds and a range of to 90 miles.

Volvo makes the point, however, that most drivers cover only 25 miles every weekday, often in traffic. With London peak-hour jams now averaging only 11 mph, battery-powered cars could happily

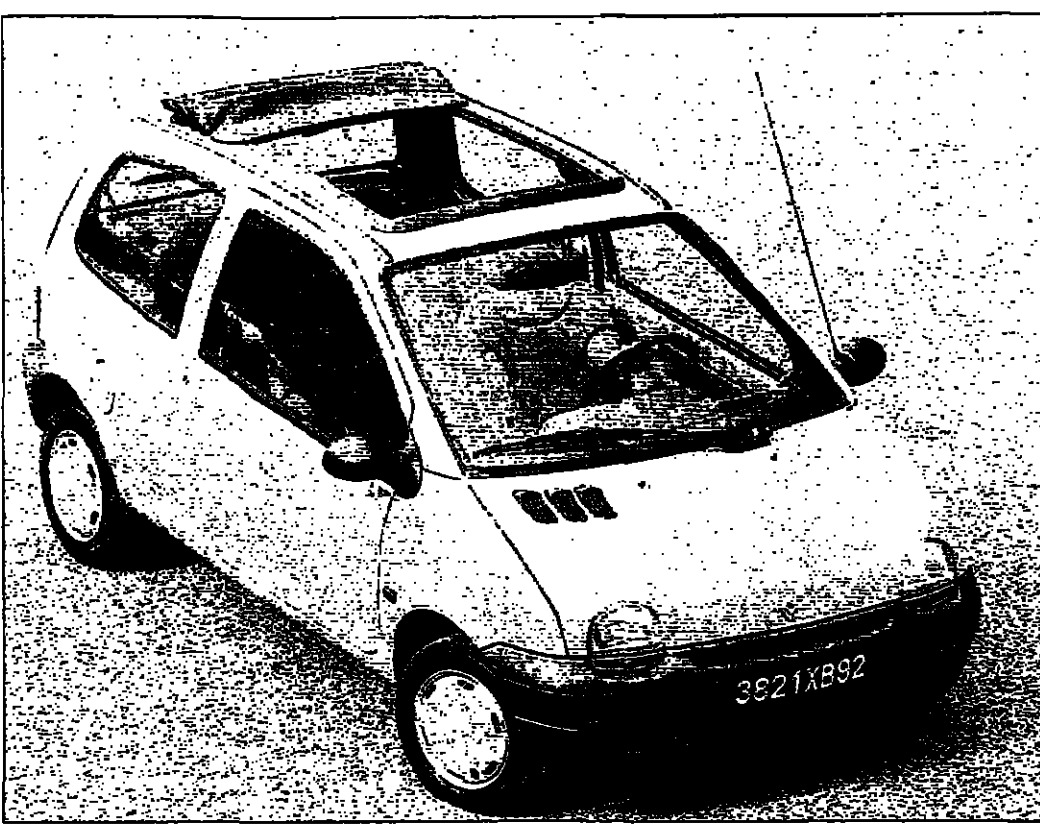
satisfy the day-to-day demands of range and speed. For drivers who demand higher speeds and longer range the Volvo carries a gas turbine, which can power the car and run a high-speed generator to recharge the batteries on the move.

Volvo says: "The hybrid is an electric car with its own power plant generating energy that is either stored in the batteries or goes directly to the electric motor to drive the vehicle."

The driver can switch from battery at slow speeds in town to battery and turbine for maximum range or turbine alone for speed and recharging. The gas turbine can run on various fuels, including diesel, which is accepted as being less environmentally damaging than petrol.

The hybrid format gives the car a top speed of almost 110mph and a range of about 500 miles. The battery puts out no exhaust at all, and even the gas turbine emissions are well below those of the California state limits, the world's most stringent.

The rest of the car is as advanced and green as its hybrid power source. The body is built all of aluminium for lightness, cutting weight by 12 per cent from the usual steel body. The aerodynamic shape is 30 per cent cleaner



Striking a balance: the makers of the Twingo have tried to be responsible without being boring

through the air and special tyres cut resistance on the move by 50 per cent, all aiding economy and conserving energy without compromising Volvo safety standards. The car is recyclable and built so it can be easily dismantled at the end of its useful life.

pean saloon and far less radical than Renault's Twingo.

The three-door Twingo begins production this month. It goes on sale in Europe in the spring for about £7,000, but no UK launch date has been announced.

The Twingo is a serious commercial proposition aimed at Europe's mini-sized car market. Four million

vehicles in this category are sold annually, compared with 2.5 mil-

The 1.2-litre three-door Twingo enters the market to compete against such cars as the UK-built Nissan Micra.

The Twingo is 11 ft long, the size of the original Mini, but it offers far more internal space thanks to fresh

Ginetta at the end of the road

As the currency dealers swapped millions across national boundaries, Martin Phaff watched his car business go down the financial drain. Ginetta Cars was one of those minor success stories that gladden the heart during recession. The company was building small sports cars and exporting about 80 per cent of production, including 30 per cent to the Far East and the hard-to-please Japanese.

The business had locked all its £900,000 borrowing into a cheap loan in Japanese yen. When sterling crashed, the repayments escalated, stopping Ginetta in its

tracks. This week receivers were trying to find buyers to rescue the company.

It was a sad and sudden end to a company that seemed to have carved a niche as one of the UK's traditional sports car specialists. However, Ginetta could still be around for some time as they receivers appointed by Barclays Bank are allowing what is left of the company to continue preparation of two new cars for the British International Motor Show this month. There is a new, cheaper G33 model, priced at £16,900, using Ford's 1.8-litre Zeta engine, and a second G33, this time

offering Land-Rover's powerful 3.9-litre V8.

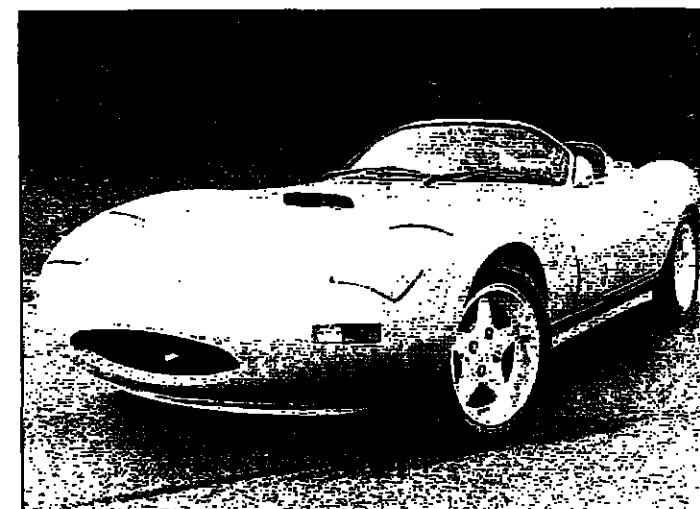
About half the workforce of 40 at the factory in Scunthorpe, Humberside, are there to ensure that orders are fulfilled and to prepare the show cars.

About six potential buyers have already been in touch with Cork Gully, which is handling the sale. That is little consolation for Mr Phaff, who led a £2 million buyout for Ginetta two years ago. He was

where buyers love the Ginetta's traditional styling and high performance. Production could have reached 200 this year and there were plans to expand to 350 cars annually.

Mr Phaff says: "It was perceived that the government would not devalue with the defence that was mounted to save the pound, but a few hours later they did. If we had converted quickly enough, we would only have taken a loss of £40,000. But you always think things will not get any worse. This time they did."

KEVIN EASON



Coming soon: the G33, due at this month's international show

ROADWISE

Company car fear

COMPANY car drivers are expecting bigger bills under the government's revised rules on benefit-in-kind taxation. A check on 400 drivers by Cowie Interleasing found that 50 per cent fear their annual tax bills will be increased while 30 per cent think they may pay about the same. Only 9 per cent think they will benefit as the government considers switching taxation away from the engine size of company cars and on to the list prices.

Sugar power

IF Popeye gets his strength from spinach, Nigel Mansell apparently gets his extra speed from sugar beet. Elf, France's state-owned oil company, which provides petrol for Mansell's Williams-Renault Formula One car, says he has been using a fuel 10 per cent of which is an ethanol compound directly produced from beets. Elf says it will



add 22 million gallons of the sugar beet ethanol to its fuels next year to provide an "extra green" petrol on forecourts.

Waste not

WASTE NOT... The Dutch government has ordered that all car wrecks, used tyres, batteries and waste oil will have to be recycled from 1994. Legislation forcing industry to reuse raw materials will be drawn up by the end of the year because The Netherlands is fast running out of space to bury its rubbish. The order on car makers is the latest step in an ambitious project to recycle 60 per cent of all waste by 2000. The move is expected to add an average 250 guilders (about £85) to the price of a new car.

Go-ahead brakes

LUCAS made its 200 millionth Colette caliper brake set this week. After 18 years in production, the low-weight calipers, which also allowed Lucas to dispense with asbestos, have been supplied to 2 manufacturers worldwide.

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605 SRI 2.0, 92J, Regency Red £13,495
605 SV 2.0, 91J, Midnight Blue, Auto £11,395
605 SV 2.0, 91J, Silver, Auto £11,895

CHISWICK WA 061-995 1266
WARWICK WRIGHT

605 SLI 2.0, 92J, Aztec Gold, Auto £12,395
605 SRI 2.0, 91H, Regency Red, Auto £11,095
605 SV 2.0, 92J, Alpine White, Auto £11,995
605 SV 2.0, 91H, Sorrento Green, Auto £11,245
605 SV 3.0, 91H, Black £12,490
605 SV 3.0, 91H, Castille Brown, Auto £12,295
605 SV 3.0, 91H, Midnight Blue, Auto £13,495
605 SV 3.0, 91H, Steel Grey, Auto £13,495
605 SV 3.0, 92J, Albemarle Red, Auto £14,495

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605 SLI 2.0, 92J, Aztec Gold, Auto £12,045
605 SV 2.0, 92J, Black, Auto, Air Con £14,645
605 SV 3.0, 91J, Regency Red, Auto £14,595
605 SVE 3.0, 92J, Steel Grey, Auto £14,495

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605 SV 3.0, 92J, Topaz Blue £15,995
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605 SRI 2.1, Turbo Diesel, 92J, Aztec Gold £14,095
605 SV 2.0, 92J, Aztec Gold, Auto £15,995
605 SV 3.0, 92J, Alpine White, Auto, Leather Trim £16,995

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605 SVI 2.0, 92J, Aztec Gold, Auto £13,295
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605 SRI 2.0, 92J, Aztec Gold, Auto £12,995
605 SRI 2.1, 92J, Topaz Blue, Auto £12,995
605 SV 3.0, 92J, Castille Brown £15,995

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605 SLI 2.0, 91J, Alpine White, Auto £10,895
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605 SV 2.0, 92J, Topaz Blue, Auto £11,995
605 SV 3.0, 92J, Steel Grey, Auto £15,595
605 SV 3.0, 92J, Steel Grey, Auto £14,495

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605 SRI 2.0, 92J, Black, Auto £12,695
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- 9.05 Perfect Strangers**. American comedy series about two long-lost cousins in (1172441)
- 9.30 Conservative Party Conference**. The last morning of the conference concentrates on internal party policy and organisation. Presented by Donald MacCormick, Vivian White and Huw Edwards (98199)
- 10.00 News**, regional news and weather (23911471) **10.05 Playdays**. For the very young (s) (2268248) **10.25 Jimbo and the Jet Set**. Animation (r) (511624)
- 10.35 Conservative Party Conference**. Further live coverage of the last morning's proceedings in Brighton. Includes News (Ceefax) and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (22350083) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (53931828) Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) Weather (45170)
- 1.30 Neighbours**. (Ceefax) (s) (80131915) **1.50 Eldorado** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (9369267)
- 2.20 Sport on Friday** introduced by Helen Rolison. Golf: quarter-final action in the Toyota World Match play championship from Wentworth; Racing from Ascot: the Mire Stakes (2.30), the October Stakes (3.05) and the AIM Aviation Stakes (3.40); Football: a review of the week's Premier league news. Continues on BBC2 at 4.00 (9881354)
- 3.50 Christopher Crocodile**. Animation. With the voice of Derek Griffiths (8721129) **3.55 The Little Green Planet Show** (s) (6913606) **4.10 Chimpunks go to the Movies**. Cartoon (s) (1589828) **4.35 Record Breakers** presented by Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker. The guests include the 14-year-old mathematics prodigy Gareth Smith, a 10-year-old chess champion and a 10-year-old footballer. (Ceefax) (s) (7657441)
- 5.00 Newsround** (6682793) **5.05 The Village by the Sea**. The last episode in the serial about family life in a small island fishing village. (Ceefax) (s) (4377937) **5.15 Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster**
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (554)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazines** (606). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (s) (9369267) **6.50 Eldorado** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (9369267)
- 7.30 Don't Wait Up**. A repeat run of George Layton's amiable comedy series starring Tony Britton and Nigel Havers as father and son doctors. With Dinah Sheridan. (Ceefax) (118). Northern Ireland: Sportsweek
- 8.00 Challenge Anneka**. This week the hyperactive Anneka Rice and her team are challenged by the Albion Moat Project to convert a listed dry moat in Staffordshire into a facility for disabled fishermen. (Ceefax) (s) (1489)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News** with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (8422)



Rotten apple? Neil Pearson with Michael Angelis (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Between the Lines**. Tough, involving drama series about internal investigations within the police force. The pushy and phlegmatic Tony Clark (Neil Pearson) has to decide who is the real victim when he investigates the conviction of a vicious armed robber. With Michael Angelis. (Ceefax) (s) (9682737)
- 10.25 Terry Wogan's Friday Night**. Weekly chat show (s) (277793). Northern Ireland: Anderson on the Box
- 11.05 Film: When He's Not a Stranger** (1989) starring Annabeth Gish and John Teshley. A made-for-television drama about a quiet college student who is date-raped by one of her campus colleagues. Because of their open relationship everyone thinks that she was a willing victim but she decides to fight for justice. Directed by John Gray (236997). Northern Ireland: 11.10 Terry Wogan 11.50-1.00am Film: *Foul Play*. Wales: Live at Brecon 11.45-1.00am Film: *When He's Not a Stranger*
- 12.40am Weather** (6282039)

BBC2

- 8.00 Breakfast News** (4491557)
- 8.15 Made by Man**. The long hours of the bee-keeper (4474880)
- 8.30 A Summer Journey**. The Severn. Angela Rippon visits the Maritime Carnival at Bristol docks (r) (77118)
- 9.00 Daytime On Two**. Educational programmes
- 2.00 News** and weather (51165996) followed by *Words and Pictures*, presented by Sophie Aldred (s) (32267915)
- 2.15 Conservative Party Conference**. Includes live coverage of the speech by prime minister John Major. With News (Ceefax) and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (792083)
- 4.00 Sport on Friday** continued from BBC1. Further coverage of quarter-final matches in the Toyota World Match play championship from Wentworth (71170)
- 5.30 Top Gear**. Includes Martin Brundle test-driving the Jaguar XJ220 (r) (s) (593)
- 6.00 Stingray**. Cut! 1960s puppet series (r). (Ceefax) (839880)
- 6.25 The Man From UNCLE**. Iya gets the hump in the Arabian desert when he is caught by a beautiful princess (r). (Ceefax) (850557)
- 7.15 Sounds of the Sixties**. Archive film of rock, pop and R'n'B stars. Among those featured are the Rolling Stones, Procul Harum, Status Quo and Manfred Mann (r) (s) (197064)
- 7.45 What The Papers Say**. With Michael Leppard (565373)
- 8.00 East: The Fire Next Time**. A report on the tension between Blackburn's Indian and Pakistani Muslim communities (s) (7335)



Former glory: Sir Roy Strong in Het Loo's gardens (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Royal Gardens**
- CHOICE: The gnomes Sir Roy Strong launches a six-part series which promises to provide a new dimension to the garden. His opening salvo is directed at Hampton Court. It may be the "most famous surviving royal garden" (Strong is very free with superlatives) but our presenter thinks it has been sadly disfigured since it was laid out in its present form by William and Mary. Strong would restore the lot to its late 17th century glory, even pulling down the yew trees to do so. He reinforces his argument with a visit to Holland and another William and Mary creation, Het Loo palace, which has been returned to its former state. In between his special pleading Strong is an enthusiastic guide, assessing gardens both for their aesthetic qualities and their political symbolism. (Ceefax) (9170)
- 9.00 Blackadder Goes Forth**. As part of the War and Peace season, a repeat of the episode in which Captain Blackadder, entrenched on the Western Front during the first world war, sees a chance of returning to Blighty. (Ceefax) (6064)
- 9.30 A Resource War**
- CHOICE: A documentary for the BBC2 War and Peace season charts the often anguished path of conscientious objectors in the century's two world wars. When compulsory conscription was introduced in 1916 thousands of potential servicemen were forced to choose between individual conscience and duty to king and country. For those who decided to fight, there were the horrors of the battlefield and the likelihood of imprisonment and ridicule. Walter Griffin, now 93, revisits Wormwood Scrubs where he spent much of the first world war in solitary confinement. There was a more lenient attitude during the 1939 war and many COs met the authorities half way by joining medical and bomb disposal teams. The story has been told before and its main lines are well known. But first-hand accounts give it flesh and poignancy (942335)
- 10.20 10 x 10**. Standish Still. A Martin and villa. Ophelia Robinson Home and its residents, many of whom are still coming to terms with Stalin's labour camps and the war on the Eastern front (r) (555002) **10.30 Newswatch** with James Cox (506977)
- 11.05 Campaign**. In the first of four programmes telling the alternative story of the United States presidential elections, writer and humorist Roy Blount Jr analyses the candidates as sitcom characters and traces the history of the Dan Quayle joke (749710)
- 11.45 You'll Love It**. Martin and villa. Ophelia Robinson is joined by comedian Don Cherry (s) (478441) **12.15am Weather**
- 12.20 Golf**. Highlights of the quarter-finals of the Toyota World Match play championship from Wentworth (5958300). Ends at 1.15

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am** (6107606)
- 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw**. Celebrity game show hosted by Danny Baker (1119625) **9.55 Thames News** (7726915)
- 10.00 The Time ... The Place ...** Topical discussion series (8775441)



Offering domestic points of view: Anne Robinson (10.40am)

- 10.40 This Morning**. Magazine show presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes fashion news and domestic advice from Anne Robinson at the Good Housekeeping Institute. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (4699644)
- 12.10 Rainbow**. Children's early-learning series (r) (2720488)
- 12.30 Lunchtime News** with Nicholas Owen and Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather (6961915) **1.05 Thames News** (60702408)
- 1.15 Home and Away**. Australian family drama serial. (Oracle) (203064) **1.45 A Country Practice**. Medical drama serial set in the Australian outback (s) (202335)
- 2.15 Highway to Heaven: It's Dog's Life**. Mark believes Jonathan, his earth-bound apprentice angel friend, has been turned into a dog by a clap of thunder and is forced to tackle their latest assignment — reuniting a runaway boy with his father — alone. Starring Michael Landon and Victor French (4101460)
- 3.10 ITV News headlines** (8524915) **3.15 Thames News** headlines (8523286) **3.20 GP**. Australian medical drama set in and around a doctor's surgery (4116151)
- 3.50 Scooby Doo**. Cartoon adventures (6932731) **4.05 Astro Farm**. Puppet animation about a farming family living in space (s) (7837151) **4.15 Victor and Hugo**. Cartoon misadventures of two incompetent French crooks. With the voice of David Jason (s) (137267) **4.40 Knightmare**. Dungeon game set in medieval times (7049422) **5.05 Cartoon** featuring *Forky Pig* (s) (5685915)
- 5.15 LWT News** (7198650)
- 5.40 Early Evening News** with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (436199)
- 6.00 Home and Away** (r). (Oracle) (422)
- 6.30 On the Buses**. Vintage comedy set in a London bus garage. Starring Reg Varney and Doris Hare (r) (642)
- 7.00 The London Evening News**. The game show hosted by Les Dennis a family from Castleford takes on the *Yumort*. (Oracle) (s) (8441)
- 7.30 Coronation Street**. (Oracle) (286)
- 8.00 The European Match**. Live coverage of the European Cup tie between Leeds United and VfB Stuttgart from the Nou Camp stadium, Barcelona (9183)
- 10.00 News** at Ten with Alastair Stewart and Nicholas Owen. (Oracle) Weather (292002) **10.35 LWT News** and weather (4698059)
- 10.40 The London Evening News**. The game show hosted by Les Dennis a family from Castleford takes on the *Yumort*. (Oracle) (s) (8441)
- 11.10 Park High**. The third in a six-part fly-on-the-wall documentary series about life in a suburban comprehensive school (586373)
- 11.45 Jake and the Fatman: My Shining Hour**. A former television star, now addicted to the bottle, witnesses a murder but nobody will believe him — except Jake. Starring William Conrad, Joe Penny (s) (9206519)
- 12.40am Married...With Children**. American domestic comedy (s) (4761300)
- 1.10 Rescue 911**. William Shatner introduces another collection of real-life drama stories about the United States emergency services (1653774)
- 2.05 E Zone**. Magazine series for young Europeans (8240590)
- 3.05 CinemaAttractions**. The latest movie news from the United States (9206519)
- 3.35 Raw Power**. Rock music magazine (s) (4571671)
- 4.35 Baseball 1992**. Major league action (9375222)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News** with Tim Neilson (22565). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Cartoons** (86002) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (85793)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life**. American game show (s) (53538)
- 9.30 Schools** (154422)
- 12.00 The Stars**. In the fourth of her six-part series Heather Couper explains the mysteries of stardom (r). (Teletext) (66002)
- 12.30 Sesame Street**. Early-learning series. Today's guest is LA Law star Blair Underwood (95624) **1.30 The Herbs**. Animation (94551809)
- 1.45 The Changers**. Puppet animation (r) (94549064)
- 2.00 Conference Report**. Live coverage of prime minister John Major's speech to the Conservative party conference in Brighton (37373)
- 3.30 The Calypso Singer**. Paul Glickman's animation of a Stan Freberg song followed by *Wreck of the Julie Plante*, a musical poem about a Canadian shipwreck (6936557)
- 3.40 The Three Stooges in Fuzien**. Around (1949). (b/w) (6287731)
- 4.00 Short Story**. The origin of Gortensheim. The story of a groto in Ireland where pilgrims claim to have seen visions of the Virgin Mary (r). (Teletext) (915)
- 4.30 Fifteen to One**. Fast-moving knock-out general knowledge quiz presented by William G. Stewart (s) (199)
- 5.00 Animal Squad Undercover**. The first of three films following the work of the RSPCA's Special Operations Unit, here trying to track down a man who argued a cockfight (s) (Teletext) (5354)
- 6.00 Blossom**. American comedy series (s) (168)
- 6.30 Happy Days**. American high school comedy set in 1950s Milwaukee. (Teletext) (544)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News** with Zeinab Badawi in London and Jon Snow at the Conservative party conference in Brighton. (Teletext) Weather (8151) **8.00 Brookside**. Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (5731)
- 8.30 Four-Matrons**. Sound. The animation series continues with *Four-Matrons* in which Jan Swankmajer reflects on his childhood aversion to eating, and *Neighbours*, an Oscar-winning film by Norman McLaren (1538)
- 9.00 Garden Club**. The team visit private gardens and allotments in the Walsley Garden City area. (Teletext) (4460)
- 9.30 Cheers**. Norm has a surprising confession to make to his fellow barflies after dating an attractive new client (r). (Teletext) (58719)
- 10.00 Nurses**. Black comedy set in a Miami hospital. (Teletext) (67731)
- 10.30 Terry and Julian**. Camp sitcom starring Julian Clary and Lee Simpson (s) (43151)
- 11.00 Paul Merton: The Series**. More dead-pan humour (r) (3977)
- 11.30 Jonathan Ross Presents "Erotica"**. The video of Madonna's latest single (492422)



Heartache: Art Garfunkel as the obsessed lover (11.40pm)

- 11.40 Film: Bad Timing** (1980)
- CHOICE: An entry in the Channel 4 *All in the Mind* series is appropriately set in Vienna, the home of Freud and psychoanalysis, and is as much a case study as an account of the doomed love story which carries the plot. In essence *Bad Timing* charts the turbulent affair between a displaced American woman (Theresa Russell) and an obsessive psychology lecturer (Art Garfunkel). It is given a rich, provocative texture by Nicolas Roeg, a director noted for bold content and extravagant style. The narrative is based on flashbacks, a favourite device for exploring matters of the mind and one which allows the director to tantalise the audience by revealing information in apparently disconnected fragments. The film is explicit and often shocking. But it is made with a flair that compels the attention (47815712)
- 1.55am The Twilight Zone: The Midnight Sun** (b/w). A tale of the supernatural (4167300). Ends at 2.10

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SATellite

- SKY ONE**
- Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites
- 6.00am The D.I. Show** (9059460) **8.40 Mr. Peppercorn** (4706557) **8.55 Playmate** (244064) **9.10 Cartoons** (9317064) **9.30 The Pyramid Game** (98731) **10.00 Let's Make a Deal** (63002) **10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful** (66624) **11.00 The Young and the Restless** (61996) **12.00 The Doctors** (20854) **1.00pm E Street** (85713) **1.30 Geraldo** (72977) **2.30 Another World** (867857) **3.15 The Bay Watch** (881002) **3.45 The D.I. Show** (917870) **5.00 Sun Time**. The best Generation (6242) **6.00 Simon Martin** (13609) **6.30 E Street** (84897) **7.00 Family Ties** (7917) **7.30 Code 3**. Real-life emergencies (4373) **8.00 Alien Nation**. Newcomers are assimilated into human society. Starring Gary Graham (52355) **8.30 The Next Generation** (72139) **10.00 Studs** (9625) **10.30 Star Trek: The Next Generation** (92809) **11.30 Pages from 31 years**
- SKY NEWS**
- Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites
- 6.00am News** on the hour
- 6.00am Sunrise** (1114335) **9.30 The Country Show** (56373) **10.00 Dayline** (61644) **10.30 Morning News** (1970-1991) (66606) **11.00 Dayline** (33712) **11.30 International Business Report** (929731) **12.30pm Good Morning America** (98731) **1.00pm Let's Make a Deal** (63002) **1.30 The Bold and the Beautiful** (66624) **11.00 The Young and the Restless** (61996) **12.00 The Doctors** (20854) **1.00pm E Street** (85713) **1.30 Geraldo** (72977) **2.30 Another World** (867857) **3.15 The Bay Watch** (881002) **3.45 The D.I. Show** (917870) **5.00 Sun Time**. The best Generation (6242) **6.00 Simon Martin** (13609) **6.30 E Street** (84897) **7.00 Family Ties** (7917) **7.30 Code 3**. Real-life emergencies (4373) **8.00 Alien Nation**. Newcomers are assimilated into human society. Starring Gary Graham (52355) **8.30 The Next Generation** (72139) **10.00 Studs** (9625) **10.30 Star Trek: The Next Generation** (92809) **11.30 Pages from 31 years**
- SKY MOVIES+**
- Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites
- 6.00am Showcase** (7636070)
- 10.00 The Wizard** (1989). Autistic Fred Savage enters a competition (7597118)
- 11.40 Tall Guy** (1991). Drama of a man who is 7'6" tall (7597118)
- 12.00am Shark's Treasure** (1975). Dives search for sunken treasure (449354)
- 3.50 Jonathan Lin** (1992). 9.00 Segall (1973). Richard Bach's tale (753544)
- 5.30 Xposure: Film News** (9064)
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- 9.50 Working Trash** (1990). Two caravans become stuck by shifting through rubbish on Wall Street. (852331)
- 10.00 Working Trash** (1990). Two caravans become stuck by shifting through rubbish on Wall Street. (852331)
- 10.10 Working Trash** (1990). Two caravans become stuck by shifting through rubbish on Wall Street. (852331)
- 10.20 Working Trash** (1990). Two caravans become stuck by shifting through rubbish on Wall Street. (852331)
- 10.30 Working Trash** (1990). Two caravans become stuck by shifting through rubbish on Wall Street. (852331)
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